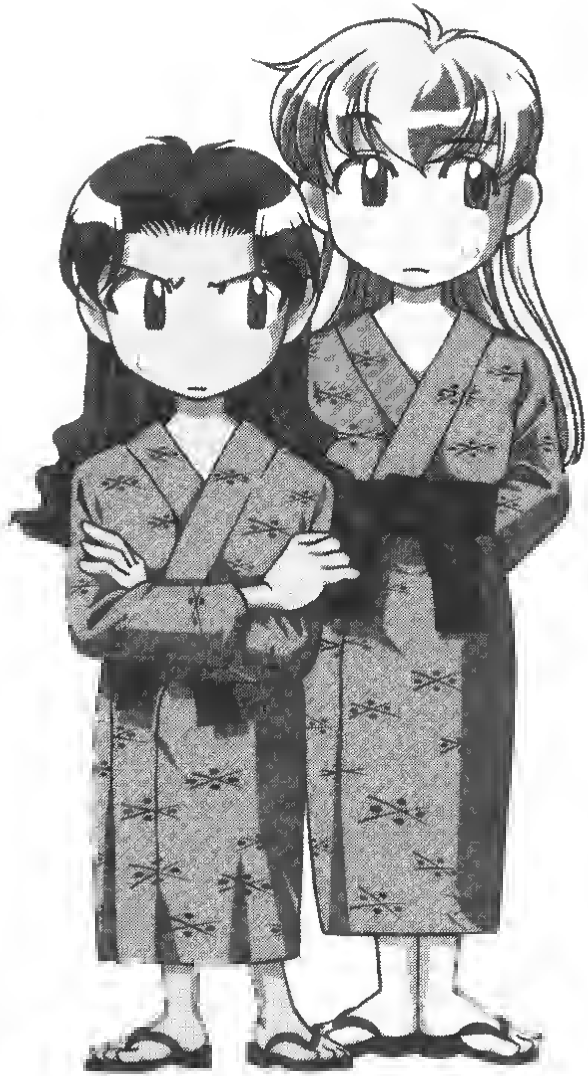
藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI™

13

Kou Fumizuki

TOKYOPOP



藍より青し 13

AI YORI AOSHI

By Kou Fumizuki 文月晃

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AI YORI AOSHI™

VOLUME 13

STORY & ART
BY
KOU FUMIZUKI

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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Summary of the story so far...

Takeo Minazuki

A third-year student in the photography club. She's clumsy and awkward, but she tries her hardest at everything she does.

Tina Foster

A fourth-year student at Meiritsu University. She, like Kaoru, is in the photography club. An American who was raised in Hakata.

Mayu Miyuki

Fabrics, she entered Meiritsu University at the age of sixteen through a special consideration for students who have lived abroad. She met Kaoru when she was little, and even now she is in love with him.

Chizuru Aizawa

Chika's classmate. She was invited by Chika to join the swimming club, even though she can't swim. She has a gentle, quiet personality.

Chika Minazuki

Taeko's cousin, a student in her first year of high school. An energetic girl who always has a tan. She's staying in the boarding house next to the Sakuraba manor.

Natsuki Komiya

Chika's classmate and a fellow member of the swimming club. She's always bright and energetic. She's under the misguided assumption that Kaoru is Chika's boyfriend.

Uzume (Ferret)

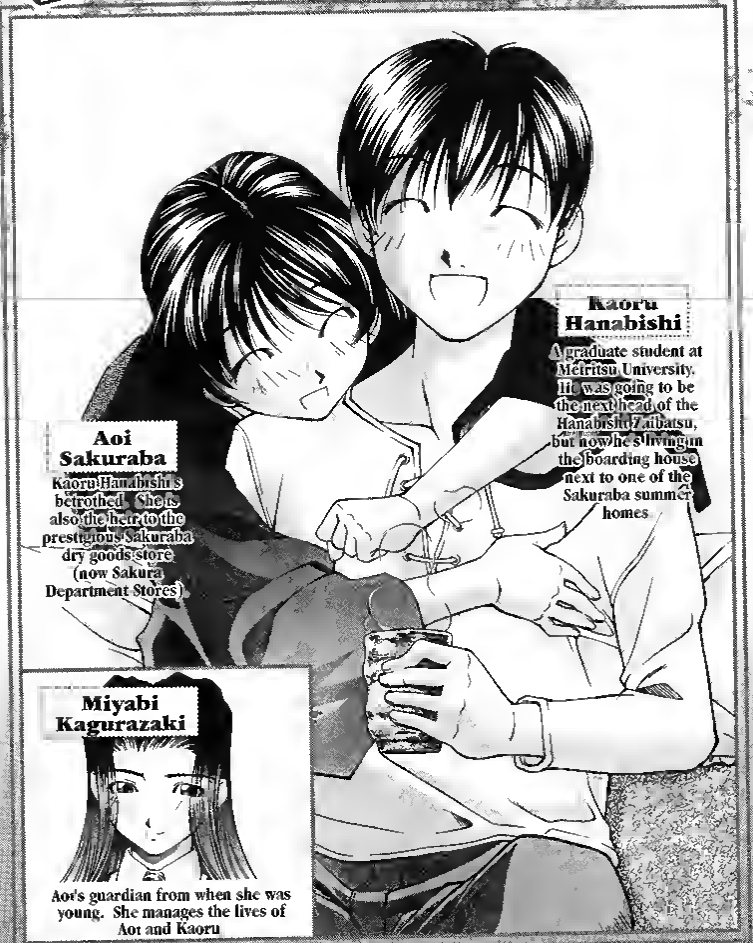
It was being raised by Tina, but now for some reason, it has gotten attached to Miyabi.

Kaoru Hanabishi was torn away from his mother when he was very young and raised as the heir of the Hanabishi Zaibatsu, however, he found he was unable to endure the harsh responsibilities placed on him, and he ran away from home to live by himself. He continued life in this fashion right up until the arrival of Aoi Sakuraba, who had been his betrothed and who loved him for eighteen years. Kaoru was blown away by her devotion, but her request for him to go back to the Hanabishi was the one thing he could not do. Aoi recognized the pain this caused Kaoru, so she decided to leave her own family, the Sakuraba, instead. Rather than lose her daughter, Aoi's mother conceded to allow the two of them to live together.

The couple moved to a western-style house that had previously been one of the Sakuraba's summer homes, and they now share the estate with Aoi's guardian, Miyabi Kagurazaki. There is a catch, though--while Aoi and Miyabi live in the main house, Kaoru has to live in the boarding house adjacent to it.

Shortly after, Tina Foster and Taeko Minazuki, members of Kaoru's photography club, moved into the boarding house, as well. In order to avoid creating a scandal for the Sakuraba family, Aoi must keep up the pretense that she is Kaoru's landlady, and not his fiancée.

Some time has passed since the charade began. Mayu Miyuki has returned from England, and Taeko's cousin, Chika Minazuki, has joined the group of friends. Ironically, the more women that gather around Kaoru, his and Aoi's feelings for each other grow deeper and deeper.



Kaoru Hanabishi

A graduate student at Meiritsu University. He was going to be the next head of the Hanabishi Zaibatsu, but now he's living in the boarding house next to one of the Sakuraba summer homes.

Aoi Sakuraba

Kaoru Hanabishi's betrothed. She is also the heir to the prestigious Sakuraba dry goods store (now Sakura Department Stores).

Miyabi Kagurazaki

Aoi's guardian from when she was young. She manages the lives of Aoi and Kaoru.

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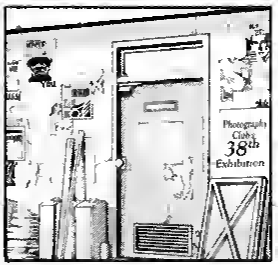
HMMM...
THIS ONE'S GOOD, TOO, AND I'D HATE TO THROW THAT ONE AWAY...
...HMMMM


Photography Club 38th Exhibition

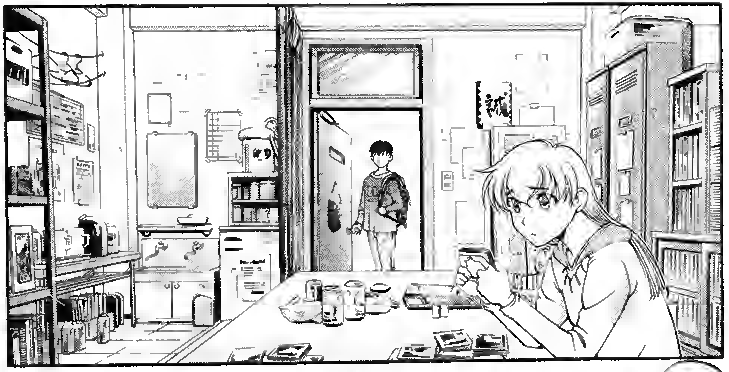
THESE ARE TOUGH CHOICES...

HEH HEH. TH..T'S A SECRET.

OH, MAN! WHEN DID YOU TAKE THESE?

THIS IS FROM WHEN WE WERE ALL PLAYING TENNIS, RIGHT?

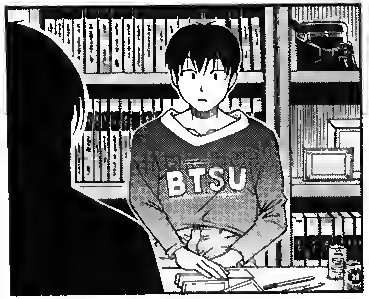
HEY, THIS IS AT THE CAMP WE WENT TO THAT ONE SUMMER

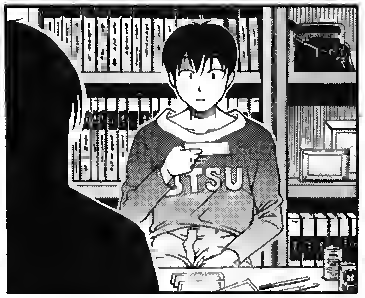


OH...I'M TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT PICTURES TO PUT IN MY GRADUATION SCRAP-BOOK.

WHAT'VE YOU GOT GOING ON, TINA?

ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE HERE TODAY?

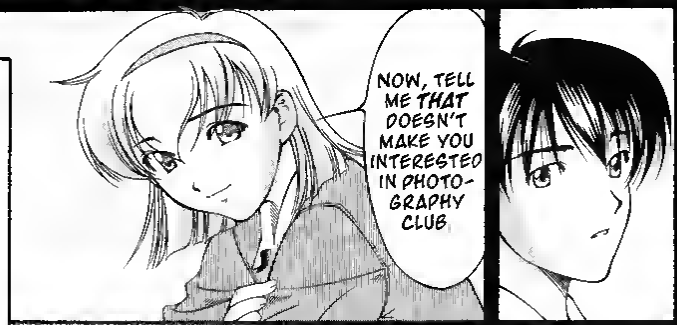

BTSU


BTSU

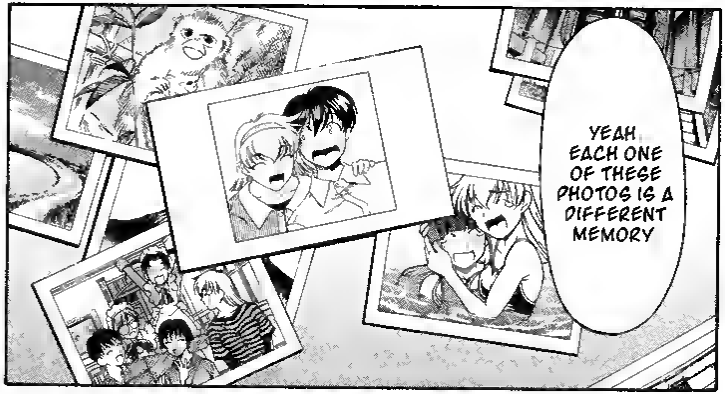
HEY, YOU WANNA JOIN THE PHOTO-GRAPHY CLUB WITH ME?
I JUST SIGNED UP FOR IT. COME ON, IT'S GONNA BE A BLAST!
WHAT ?!
BUT I'M NOT REALLY INTER-ESTED IN PHOTO-GRAPHY ..
WOW... I FORGOT ABOUT THIS PICTURE

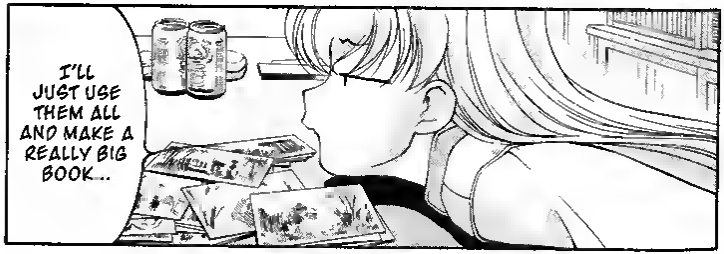
SURE YOU ARE! SAY CHEESE!!
WHAAA--?!
I HAD THIS THEORY I THOUGHT WOULD BE INTER-ESTING TO TEST OUT...
OMIGOD, LOOK AT YOUR FACE!!
HERE IT COMES!
HA! YOU'RE BLUSH-ING!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?
Ah ha ha You're such a wuss

PHOTOGRAPHS CAN BE A MAGIC TOOL TO REVEAL A PERSON'S HEART.


NOW, TELL ME THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

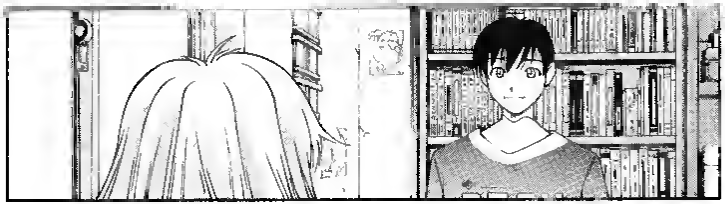
AAUGH! THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CHOOSE! THEY'RE ALL GREAT! GRR!


YEAH, EACH ONE OF THESE PHOTOS IS A DIFFERENT MEMORY

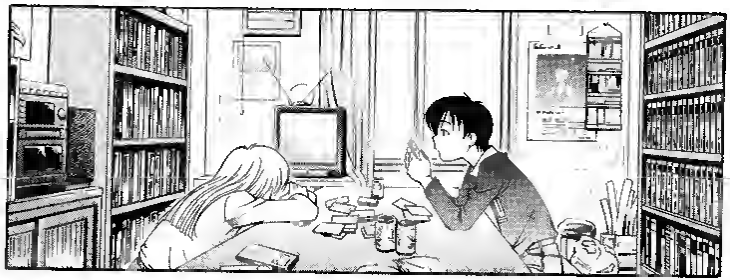

I'LL JUST USE THEM ALL AND MAKE A REALLY BIG BOOK...

I LOVE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THESE PICTURES.

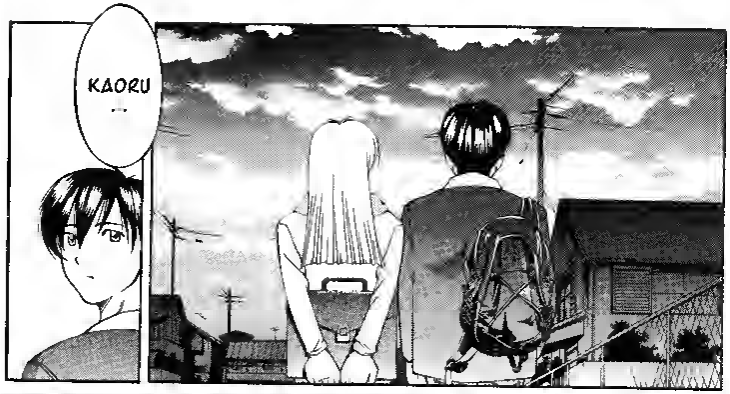
WHAAAAA?!
NO, NO, NO! THIS IS ALL SO UNFAIR! HOW CAN I DECIDE?!
tantrum



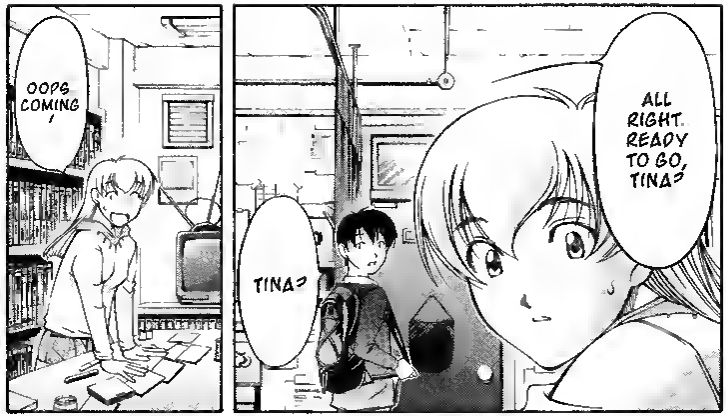
WELL, NO ONE COULD SAY YOU AREN'T TRUE TO WHAT YOU FEEL, TINA.

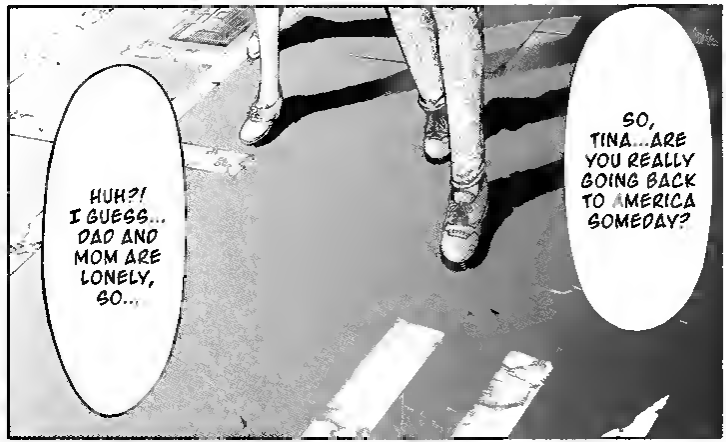


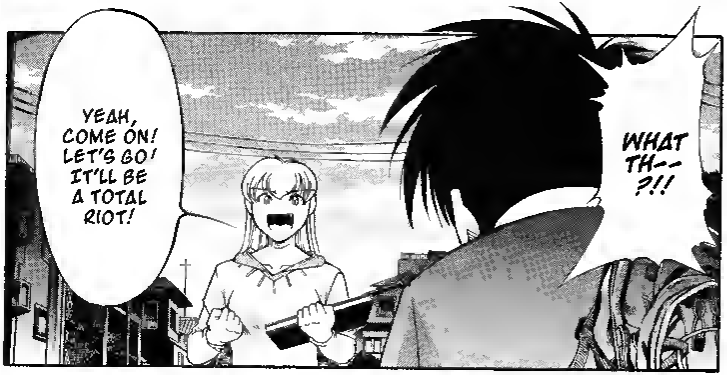
...BUT IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE CAMPUS WILL BE DEMOLISHED WITHIN THE YEAR--
--THERE ARE LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO WISH TO PRESERVE THE SCHOOL...


KAORU
...

IF YOU WANT, YOU COULD COME WITH ME.


OOPS COMING!
TINA?
ALL RIGHT. READY TO GO, TINA?

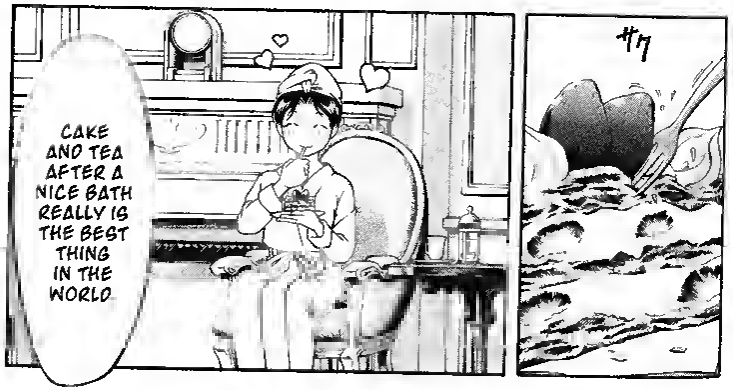

HUH?! I GUESS... DAD AND MOM ARE LONELY, SO...
SO, TINA...ARE YOU REALLY GOING BACK TO AMERICA SOMEDAY?


YEAH, COME ON! LET'S GO! IT'LL BE A TOTAL RIOT!
WHAT TH--?!!

THEN I CAN TAKE A BUNCH MORE PICTURES AND MAKE A WHOLE OTHER BOOK OF MEMORIES!

BTSU
EH?!

HALF?!
IT'S OKAY... I'M HALF JOKING.
YUP!
LET'S GO TO KYUSHU!!


CAKE AND TEA AFTER A NICE BATH REALLY IS THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD.
#17

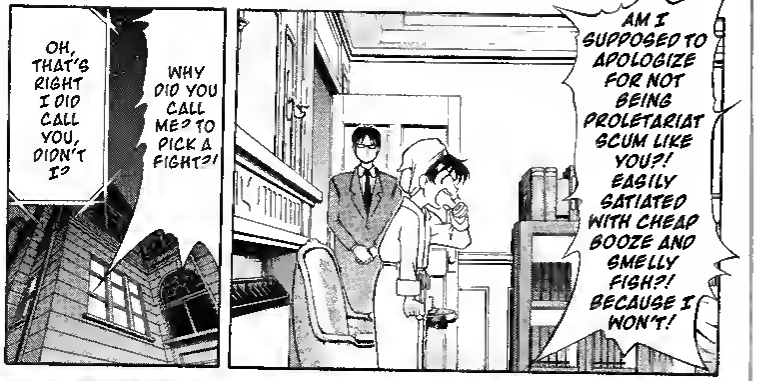
YAY! CHIKA TOO, CHIKA TOO!!
YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS HAVE WANTED TO SEE WHAT KYUSHU WAS LIKE.

WELL, IF AOI-SAMA SAYS SHE WOULD LIKE TO GO...
I'VE HEARD THEY MAKE AN EXCELLENT LOCAL SAKE.

MAYU-SAMA, YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL
WHO IS IT FROM?
IT'S FROM TINA FOSTER-SAMA

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HEY THERE, MAYU-TCHI! WHAT'VE YOU BEEN UP TO?

IF YOU MUST KNOW, YOU INTERRUPTED MY POST-BATH CAKE TIME.
HOW DROLL! YOU'RE STILL FRIGHT-FULLY BOURGEOIS, I SEE--


AM I SUPPOSED TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING PROLETARIAT SCUM LIKE YOU?! EASILY SATIATED WITH CHEAP BOOZE AND SMELLY FISH?! BECAUSE I WON'T!
WHY DID YOU CALL ME? TO PICK A FIGHT?!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT I DID CALL YOU, DIDN'T I?

WELL, THAT IS...
IT'S, WELL, YOU KNOW...
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イラ
イラ
イラ
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AAAUGH, I'M GOING TO HANG UP!!

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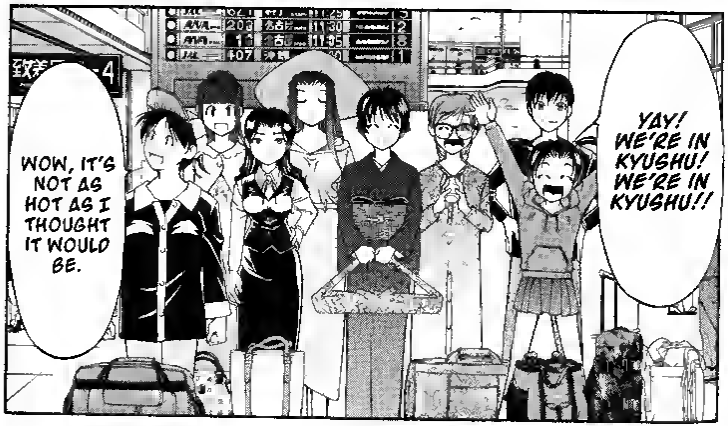
End of Chapter 103: Shouten — Focus



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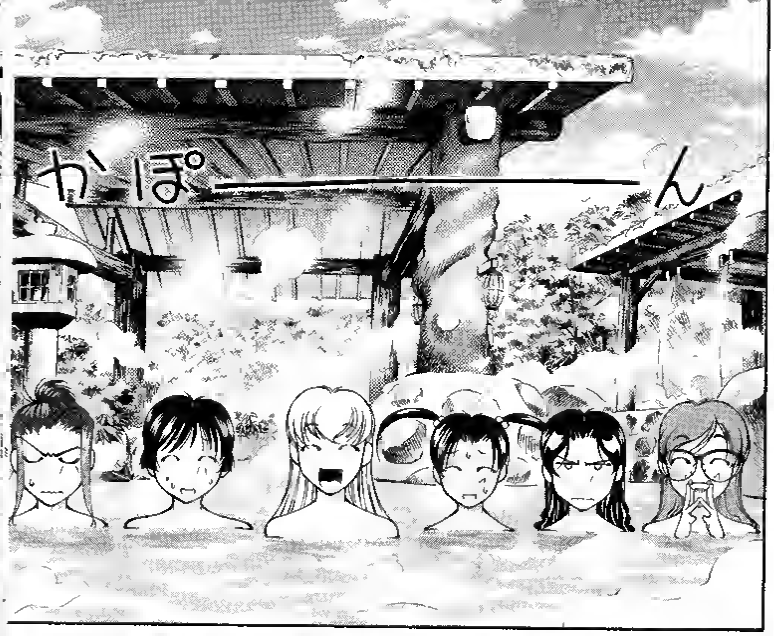
AI YORI AOSHI

CHAPTER 104 SOUYU BATHING TOGETHER

THIS THE PERFECT WAY TO BLOW OFF STEAM AFTER ALL OF OUR TESTS!
AH HA HA HA, NO DOUBT!
HUH?! MAYUTCHI, IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NOT REALLY
IT'S JUST THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU INVITED MAYU TO HAVE FUN WITH YOU GUYS. AND IT'S KIND OF CREEPY

YOU TOUCHING ME IS THE KIND OF CREEPY I'M TALKING ABOUT!!
MAYBE LOOSENING UP WILL DO YOU SOME GOOD, MAYUTCHI ...!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT THE MORE PEOPLE, THE MORE FUN!
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR "KYUSHU"?
RADON!
LOCAL SAKE.
THE HUIS TEN BOSCH RESORT.
SPACE WORLD!!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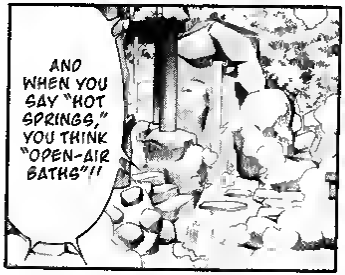
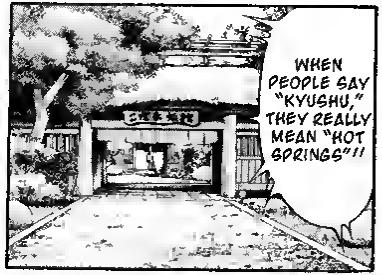

AND WHEN YOU SAY "HOT SPRINGS," YOU THINK "OPEN-AIR BATHS"!!

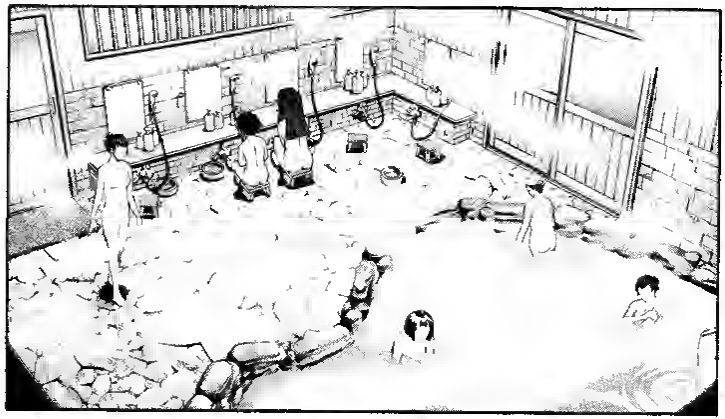

WHEN PEOPLE SAY "KYUSHU," THEY REALLY MEAN "HOT SPRINGS"!!

THEY AREN'T BAD
Y-YES. THEY ARE.
HEY, LANDLADY-SAN, MANAGER-SAN-- AREN'T KYUSHU HOT SPRINGS FANTASTIC?!

HEH HEH HEH. YOU'RE ALL SO NAIVE.

WHEN I HEAR KYUSHU, I THINK YATAI AND THEIR YUMMY GOODIES, AND THE MT. ASO VOLCANO.

OKAY, CLASS IN SESSION! IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LEARN THE REAL REASON PEOPLE COME TO KYUSHU!!
YAAAAY!!

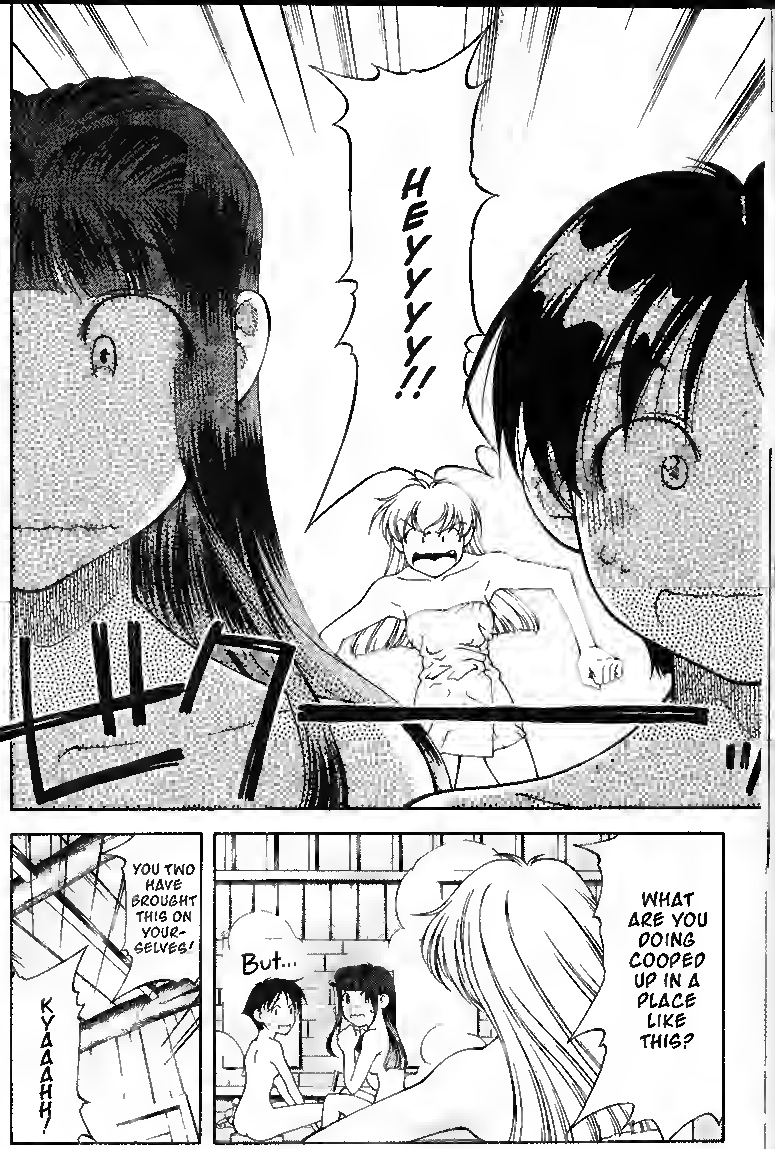


OPEN AIR BATHS AREN'T EVIL OR ANYTHING... RIGHT?
NO, NOT REALLY EVIL, BUT.. YOU KNOW.

HEY, CHIKARIN, MAYUTCHI! ISN'T KYUSHU FUN?!
Y-YEAH, SURE.

Cheers!
HEY, TAE-CHIN, ISN'T THE LOCAL SAKE IN KYUSHU DELICIOUS ?!
KYUSHU IS AMAZING.

HMM? WHERE ARE NATSUKI-TCHI AND CHIZURU-TCHI?!
THEY SAID THEY PREFER THE INDOOR BATH.
WHAAAAAA?!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING COOPED UP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
But...
YOU TWO HAVE BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELVES!
KYAAAHH!
HEYYYY!!

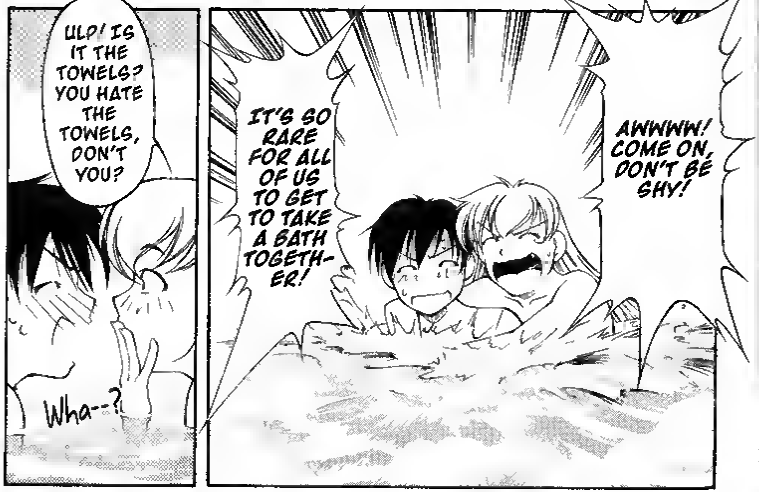
WAIT A SECOND! TINA-SAN!
P-PLEASE... IN OPEN-AIR BATHS, I...
NO TOWELS FOR YOU TWO!!
EHHH? BUT ?!
T-TOWEL, TOWEL !!
PHAH !
TAKE THAT !!
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY, DON'T YOU THINK ?!
HEY
トボボン

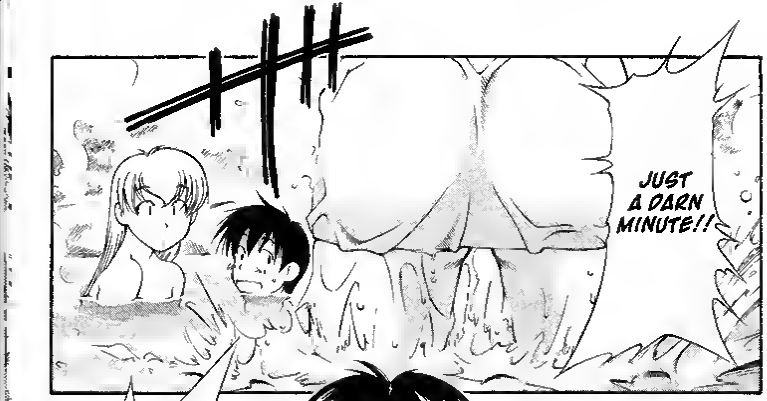
KAORU!!
UH, HEY...

IN KYUSHU, IT'S STANDARD TO HAVE COED BATHING IN THE OPEN-AIR BATHS!

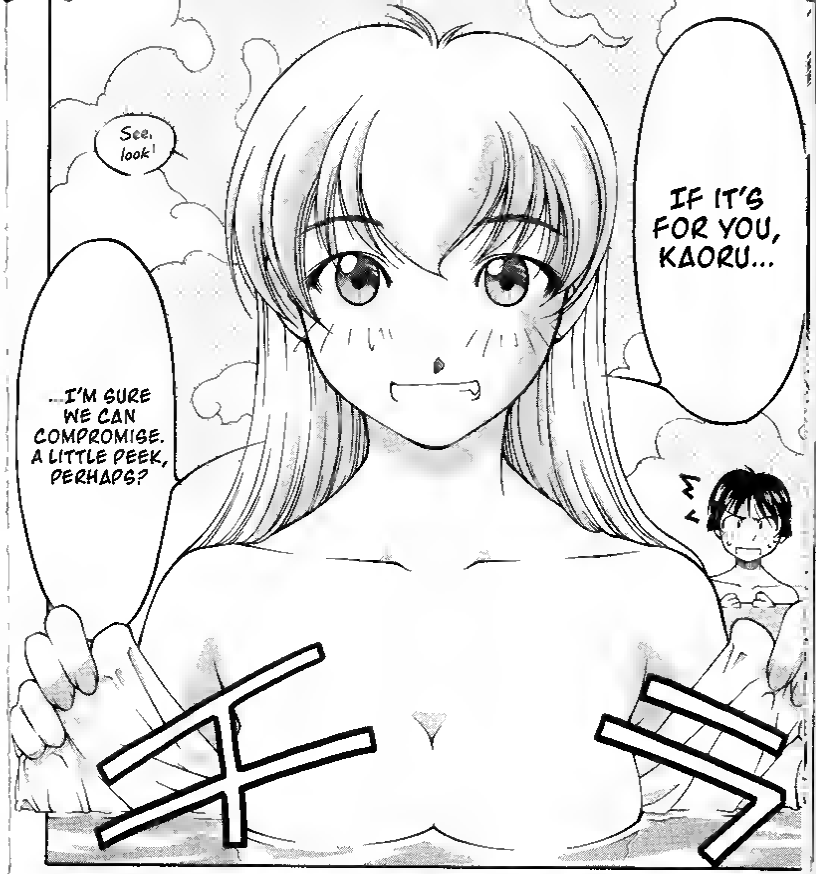
I'M GLAD THERE'S SO MUCH STEAM, AREN'T YOU?
YES, BUT THAT BECOMES A MOOT POINT ONCE WE TRY TO GET OUT.
Oh, come on, you like it
Because you were the one who had to bathe outdoors!

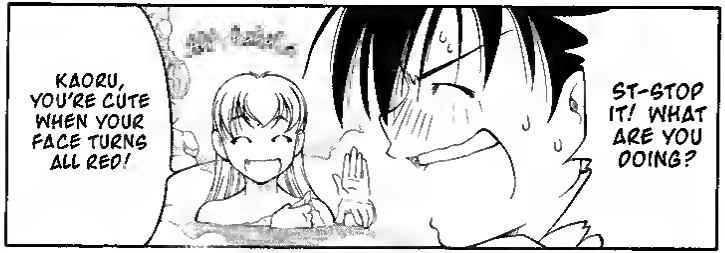
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I THINK I'LL STICK WITH THE INDOOR TUBS.

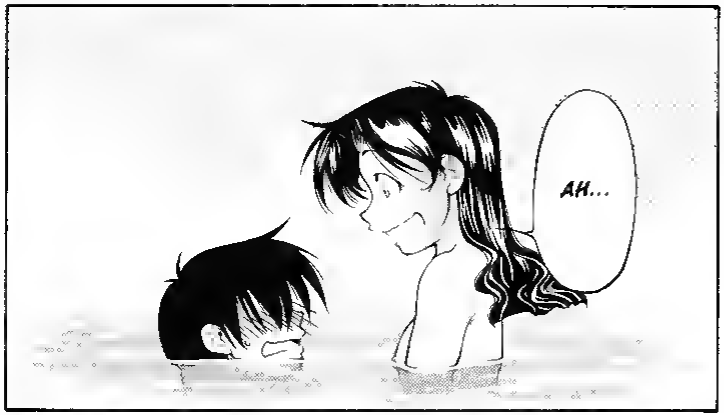

ULP! IS IT THE TOWELS? YOU HATE THE TOWELS, DON'T YOU?
Wha--?
IT'S SO RARE FOR ALL OF US TO GET TO TAKE A BATH TOGETHER!
AWWWW! COME ON, DON'T BE SHY!


JUST A DARN MINUTE!!

I CAN'T JUST QUIETLY SIT BACK AND WATCH THIS VULGAR DISPLAY!
Ooh, ing


See, look!
IF IT'S FOR YOU, KAORU...
...I'M SURE WE CAN COMPROMISE. A LITTLE PEEK, PERHAPS?


KAORU, YOU'RE CUTE WHEN YOUR FACE TURNS ALL RED!
ST-STOP IT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

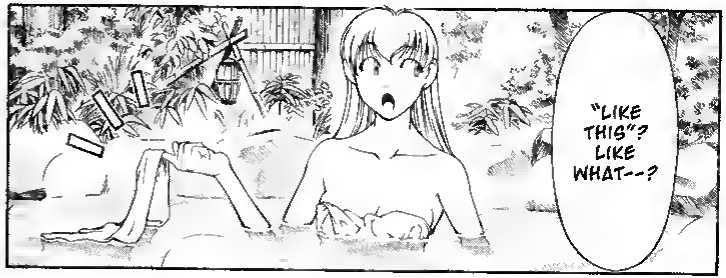

AH...

YOU...

UH... NO, THAT IS...

It back-fired?!
HUG♡
YOU'RE SO CUTE! HANA-BISHI-SAMA, YOU'RE ALL BLUSHY! IT IS ADOR-ABLE!!
HEEEEY!!

MAYU WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO CONTINUE TO TREAT KAORU LIKE THIS!!
H-HEY, MAYU-CHAN...?


"LIKE THIS"? LIKE WHAT--?

GO, CHIKA!!
UWAWAWAH!!

WOW. COLLEGE GIRLS REALLY ARE BOLD
EEHH?!
My body-?
PUT YOUR BODY BETWEEN YOUR BOY-FRIEND AND HARM'S WAY, OR YOU'LL LOSE HIM!
HUH?!
CHIKA-CHAN, THIS COULD GET DANGER-OUS!!

NOOOO! KAORU-SAMA IS GOING TO DROWN!!
ヒク ヒク

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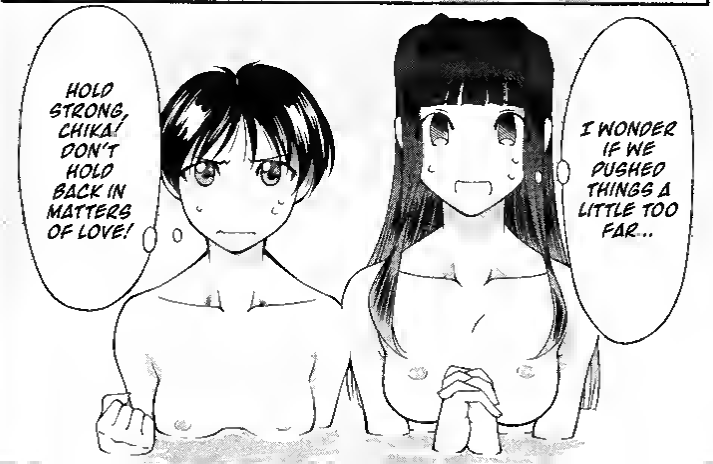
ぎゃん


HOLD STRONG, CHIKA! DON'T HOLD BACK IN MATTERS OF LOVE!
I WONDER IF WE PUSHED THINGS A LITTLE TOO FAR...

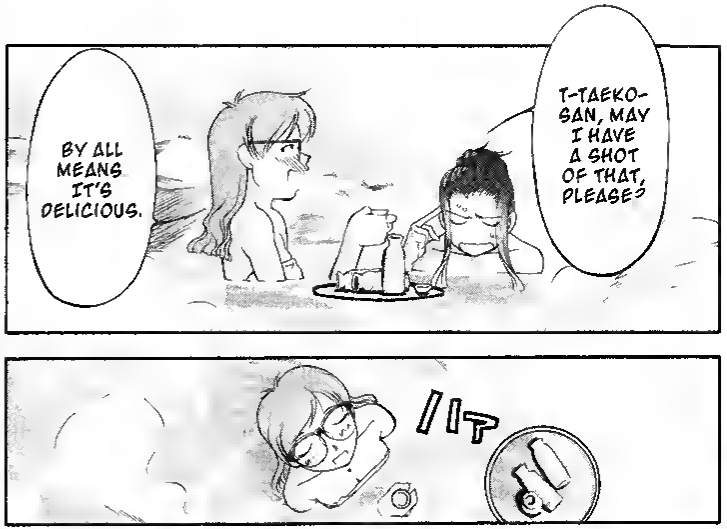
EXCUSE ME, CHIKA-SAN. WOULD YOU PLEASE STAY OUT OF THIS?!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, JUMPING IN ON US LIKE THAT?!
B-BUT--

MFF! MFF!
Grll brlll

藍より青し

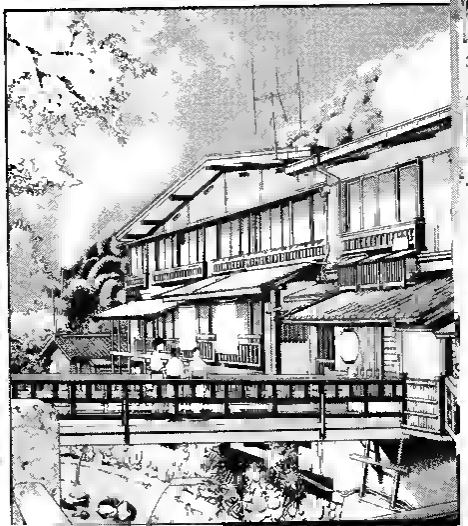
AI YORI AOSHI

CHAPTER 105 HITOU SECRET HOT SPRING



End of Chapter 104: Souyu — Bathing Together

MMMM! KYUSHU FOOD IS THE MOST DELICIOUS EVER!!



HANA-BISHI-SAMA, EAT THIS TOFU PUDDING WITH ME!
YOU'LL LOVE THESE SQUID NOODLES!
SENPAI, THIS SAKE IS DELICIOUS!

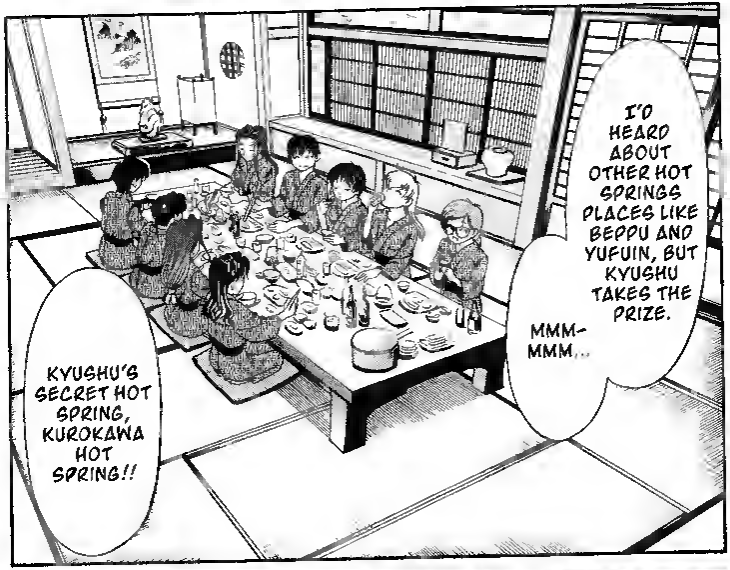
AH, KAORU-SAMA, SHALL I SERVE YOU SOME RICE?
YEAH, THANKS

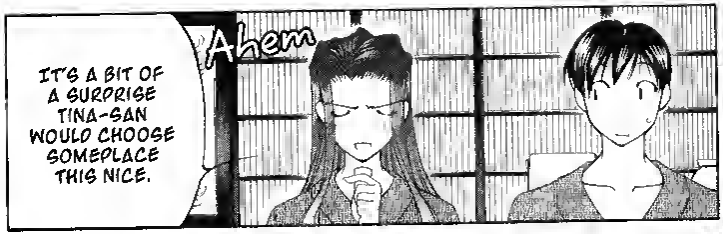
NA-TSUKI-CHAN!!
Leave me out of this
Chiho, it's your turn.
COLLEGE GIRLS REALLY ARE--

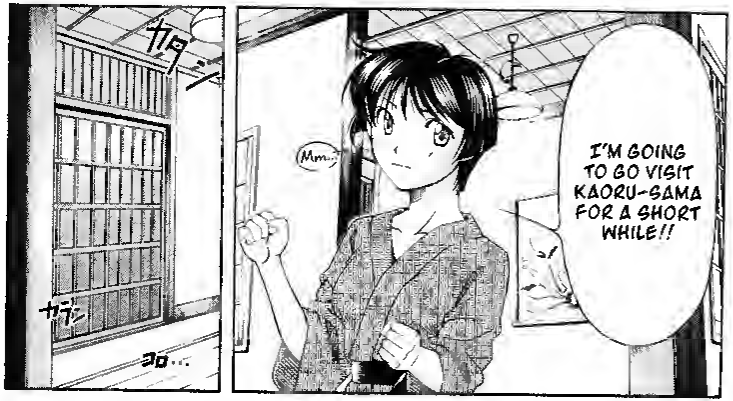
Uhh...

Noodles!
Have some sake
Hes having pudding!

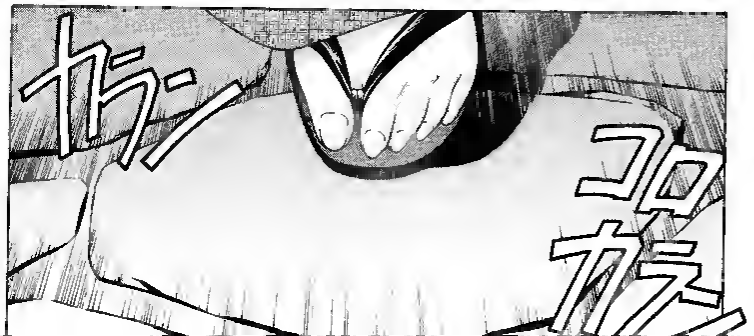
YES, IT'S QUITE TASTY, ISN'T IT?
UH-HUH.


I'D HEARD ABOUT OTHER HOT SPRINGS PLACES LIKE BEPPU AND YUFUIN, BUT KYUSHU TAKES THE PRIZE.
MMM-MMM...
KYUSHU'S SECRET HOT SPRING, KUROKAWA HOT SPRING!!


IT'S A BIT OF A SURPRISE TINA-SAN WOULD CHOOSE SOMEPLACE THIS NICE.
Ahem


カラ…
コロ…
Mm…
I'M GOING TO GO VISIT KAORU-SAMA FOR A SHORT WHILE!!

MY, MY...
Hm...


カー
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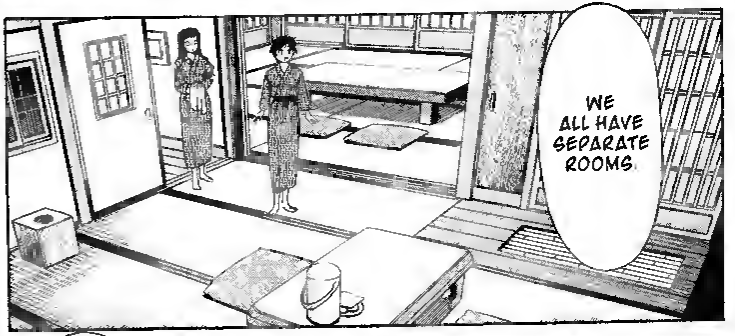
カラ


WE ALL HAVE SEPARATE ROOMS.

AOI-SAMA, I'M SURE YOU'RE TIRED FROM TRAVELING, SO PLEASE REST.
MI-YABI-SAN...

I'M SURPRISED BY HOW NICE EVERY-THING ACTUALLY IS.
MIYABI-SAN, THIS ONE EVEN HAS A SMALL OPEN-AIR BATH.

カラニ
カラニコロ
コロ
カラ
カラン
KAORU-SAMA, MAY I COME IN?
カララ
AOI-CHAN...?

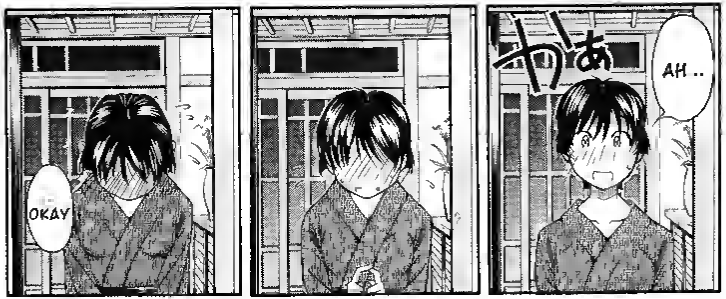
SO THIS IS YOUR ROOM, KAORU-SAMA?
YEAH. IT'S KIND OF TOO BIG FOR JUST ONE PERSON.
AH! I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
THANK YOU.
TEE HEE HEE, I HAVE KAORU-SAMA ALL TO MYSELF.
HERE, KAORU-SAMA...

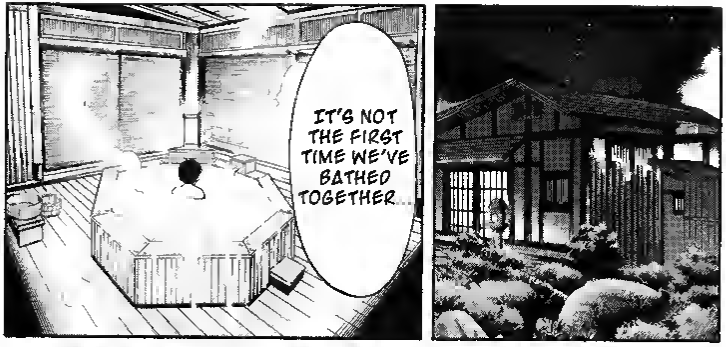
PLEASE JUST SIT BACK AND RELAX...
...AND LET AOI TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.
MAYBE THERE IS ONE THING..
HMM...
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE AOI TO DO FOR YOU?

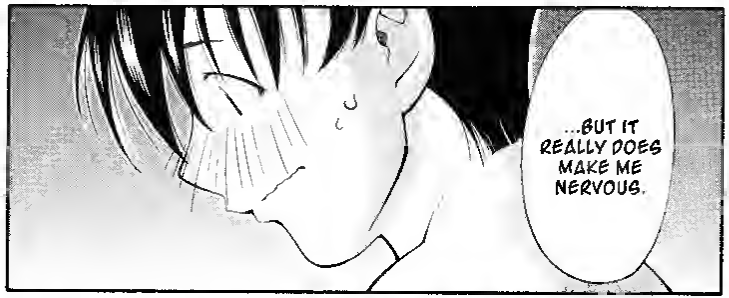
I FEEL LIKE IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU LIKE THIS, KAORU-SAMA.
YOU'VE BEEN PUSHING YOURSELF FOR SO LONG NOW, KAORU-SAMA, I'VE BEEN WORRIED.
KAORU-SAMA...
IT'S NICE TO RELAX FOR ONCE.
YEAH ..

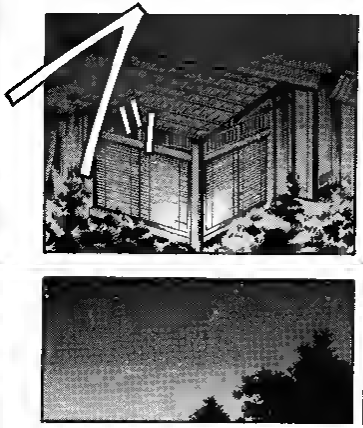
LET'S TAKE A BATH.
EH?!

...JUST THE TWO OF US... YOU KNOW?
THIS TIME, IT'LL BE...


OKAY
AH..


IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME WE'VE BATHED TOGETHER...

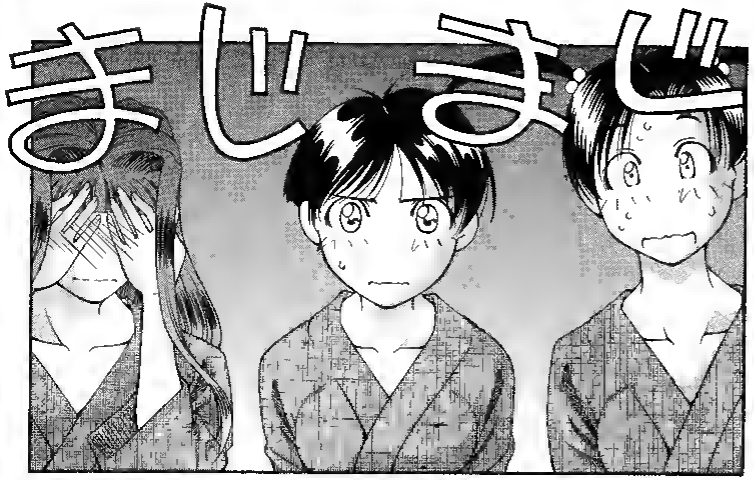

...BUT IT REALLY DOES MAKE ME NERVOUS.


M-MAY I...TURN OFF THE LIGHTS?
UH, SURE.
UH, UM... KAORU-SAMA?

AH... I'M EMBARRASSED...

OH... IT'S NO GOOD..
THAT'S NOT TRUE YOU'RE SO GORGEOUS

TREAT ME GENTLY, AND I... I'LL...I...
AAH!!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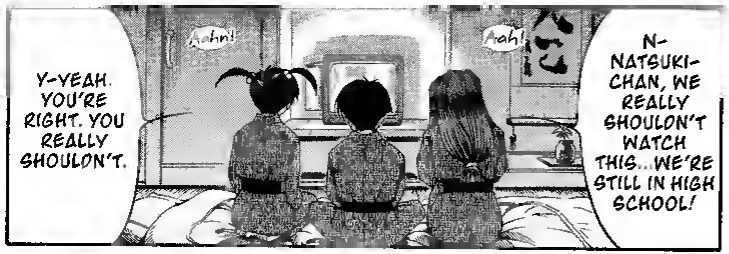
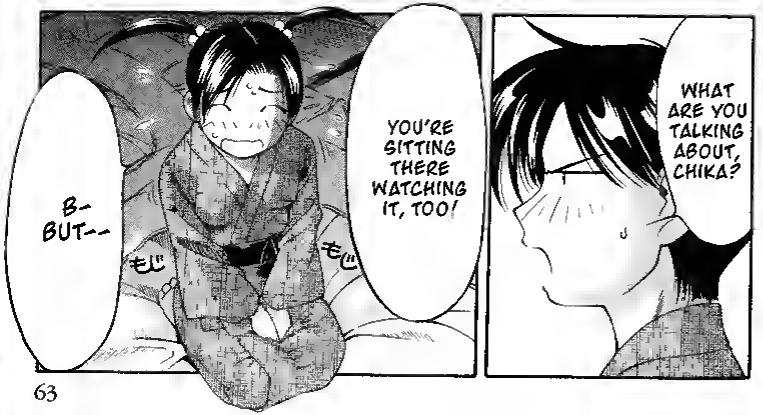
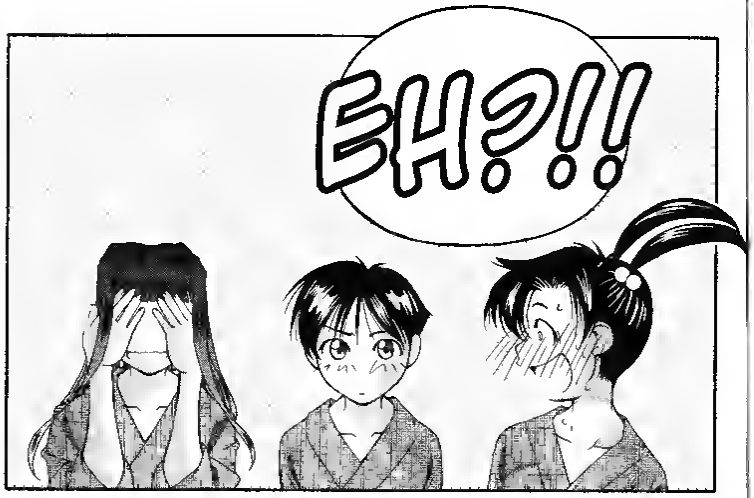
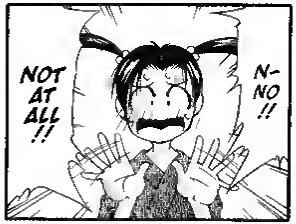
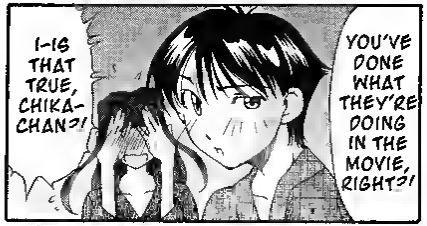

Y-YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU REALLY SHOULON'T.
Aahn!
Aah!
N-NATSUKI-CHAN, WE REALLY SHOULON'T WATCH THIS...WE'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL!


B-BUT--
YOU'RE SITTING THERE WATCHING IT, TOO!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, CHIKA?

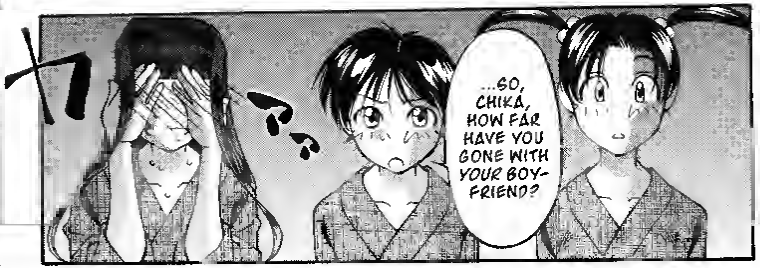

EH?!!

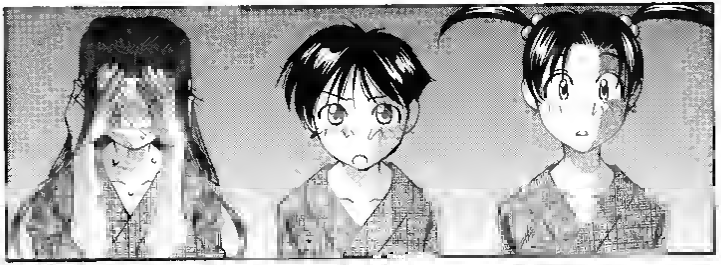

N-NO !!
NOT AT ALL !!


I-IS THAT TRUE, CHIKA-CHAN?!
YOU'VE DONE WHAT THEY'RE DOING IN THE MOVIE, RIGHT?!

YOU'VE ONLY KISSED HIM?!
Stopped short of it?
SO YOU STOPPED JUST SHORT OF IT?!

YOUR HANDS ARE UP, BUT YOU'RE LOOKING THROUGH YOUR FINGERS.
AND QUIT FAKING IT, CHIZURU.

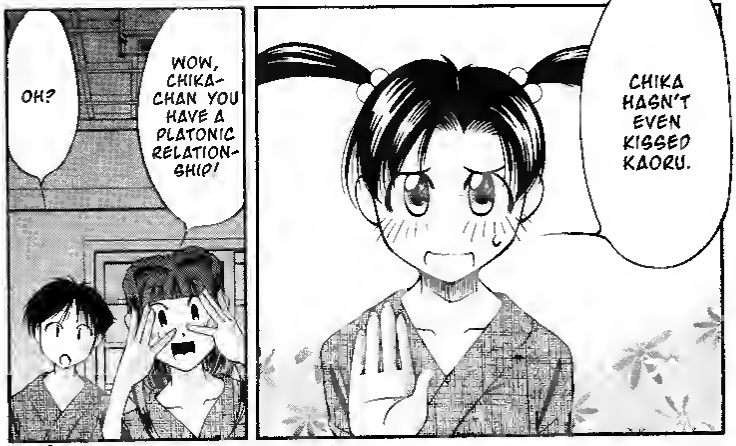

...SO, CHIKA, HOW FAR HAVE YOU GONE WITH YOUR BOY-FRIEND?



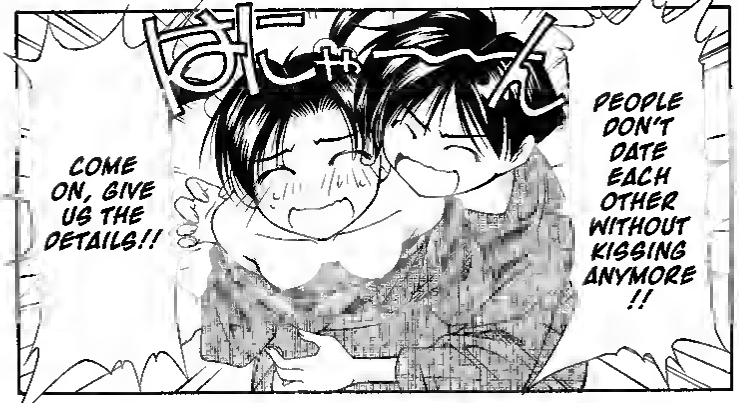
I-IT IS TRUE !!
I'M NOT LYING !!

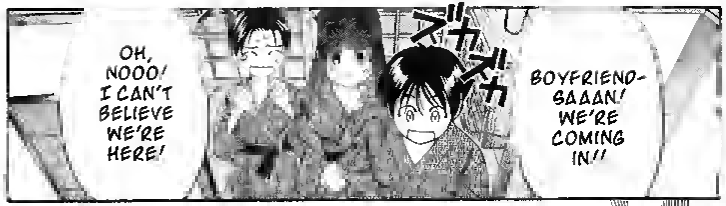
I'VE DONE SOME-THING KINDA LIKE IT, THOUGH
but that's my secret

THEN I'LL ASK YOUR BOY-FRIEND DIRECT-LY!!
WH-WH-WHA--?! NO! WAIT, YOU TWO!!
Come on Mizuru


OH?
WOW, CHIKA-CHAN YOU HAVE A PLATONIC RELATION-SHIP!
CHIKA HASN'T EVEN KISSED KAORU.

DO YOU REALLY EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT?!


COME ON, GIVE US THE DETAILS!!
PEOPLE DON'T DATE EACH OTHER WITHOUT KISSING ANYMORE !!

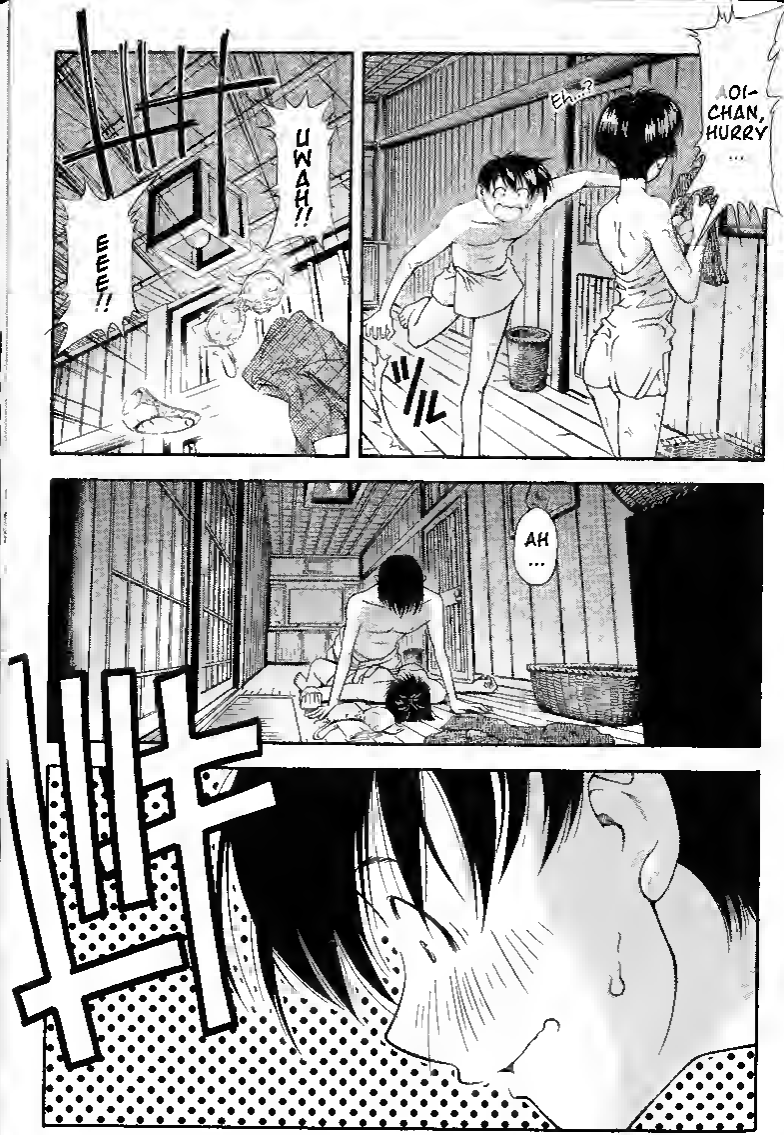


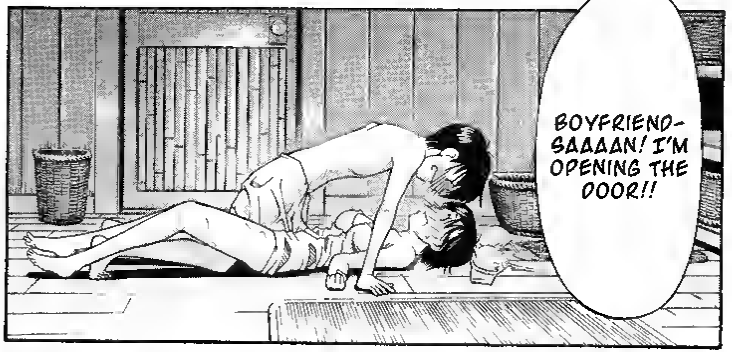
End of Chapter 105: Hitou — Secret Hot Spring

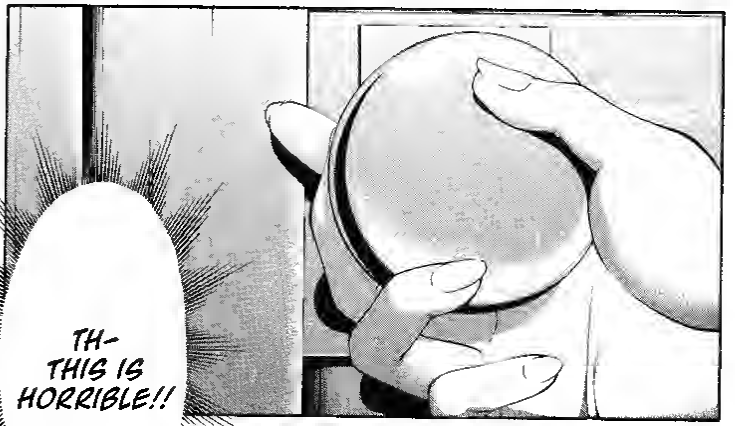
WHAT'S GOING ON? HE'S NOT HERE.
...HIS SHOES ARE HERE.
BUT ...
Sh, let's go back
HE'S PROBABLY TAKING A WALK OR SOME-THING.
AH! MAYBE HE'S USING HIS INDOOR BATH? I BET THAT'S IT!

HELLO --?
HOW DID CHIKA-CHAN AND THOSE GIRLS GET IN HERE?!
NO, NO, NO! STOP, NATSUKI-CHAN!
COME OUT, BOY-FRIEND, WHEREVER YOU ARE!

EH?!!
K-KAORU-SAMA, WHAT SHOULD WE DO? MY CLOTHES ARE OUT IN THE DRESSING ROOM!!
WE HAVE TO GET YOUR CLOTHES OUT BEFORE CHIKA-CHAN AND THE OTHERS GET THERE!
YES!!
THANK GOOD-NESS


UWAH!!
EEE!!
Eh...?
AOI-CHAN, HURRY...
AH...


BOYFRIEND-SAAAAN! I'M OPENING THE DOOR!!


TH-THIS IS HORRIBLE!!

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IS THE BATH HERE, THEN?
NATSUKI-CHAN, THIS IS THE BACK DOOR.
HUH?!
HEY, BOYFRIEND! ARE YOU IN HERE?!
THERE HE IS!
NN?! WHAT?

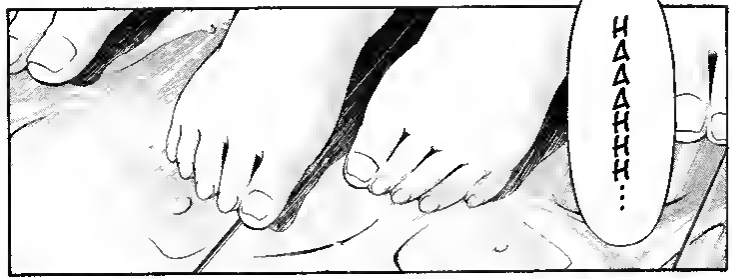
HM?! YEAH, I LIKE A RELAXING AMBIENCE.
WOW, IT'S REALLY DARK IN HERE. YOU TURN OUT THE LIGHT TO BATHE?
TSK! THAT'S NOT OUR FAULT...
NATSUKI-CHAN, CHIKA'S BOYFRIEND IS IN THE BATH. WE SHOULDN'T BOTHER HIM...
I WANT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THEIR LOVE LIFE ASAP!
GOOD. NOW, LET'S GO BACK!!
AH, YEAH. OKAY, I'LL DO THAT.
BOY-FRIEND-SAN, WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR BATH, WOULD YOU COME TO OUR ROOM?
I'LL GET TAE-NEECHAN AND THE OTHERS TO COME OVER AND DISTRACT THEM...

SHALL WE CALL IT A NIGHT, KAORU-SAMA?

YES... YOU'RE RIGHT

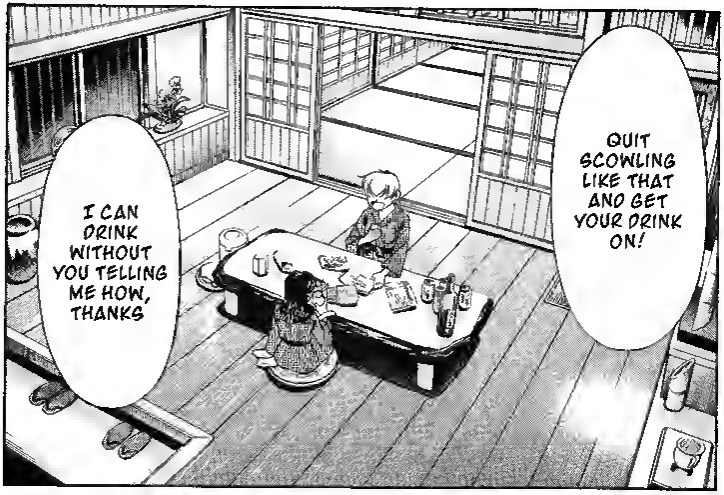
I'D HOPED WE'D HAVE THIS WHOLE EVENING TOGETHER, KAORU-SAMA
ME, TOO. I WANTED TO SPEND MORE TIME ALONE WITH HER

Y-YEAH, PROBABLY. WHO KNOWS IF CHIKA-CHAN AND THE OTHERS WILL BE BACK?
Uuhh

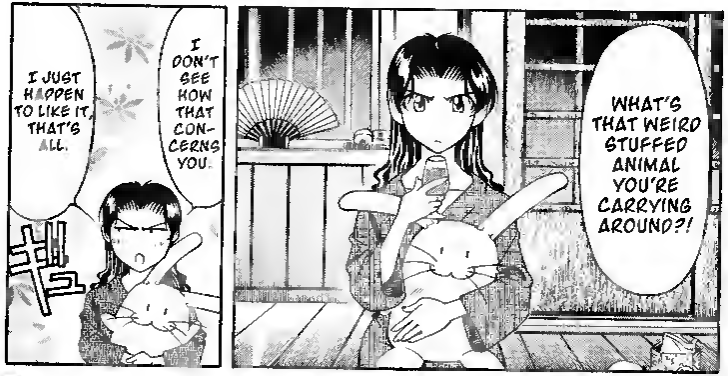

HAAAHHH...

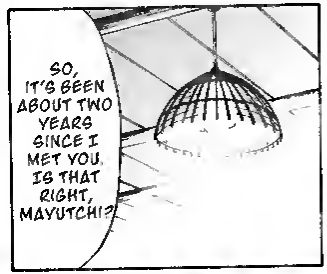
THAT WAS SCARY.
YEAH.

OK


QUIT SCOWLING LIKE THAT AND GET YOUR DRINK ON!
I CAN DRINK WITHOUT YOU TELLING ME HOW, THANKS

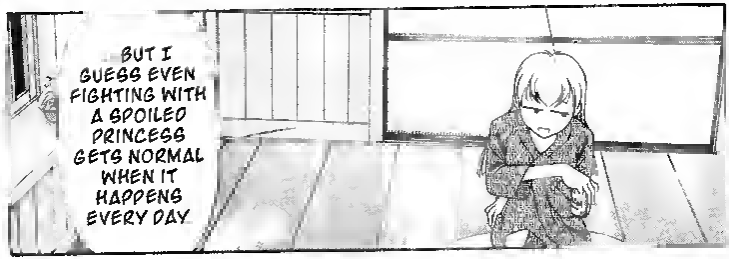
HEY, MAYUTCHI...
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?!

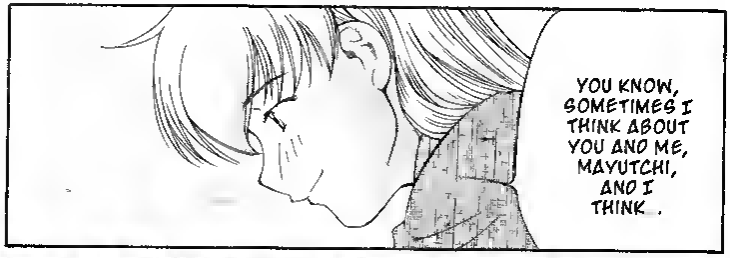

WHAT'S THAT WEIRD STUFFED ANIMAL YOU'RE CARRYING AROUND?!
I DON'T SEE HOW THAT CONCERNS YOU.
I JUST HAPPEN TO LIKE IT, THAT'S ALL.


SO, IT'S BEEN ABOUT TWO YEARS SINCE I MET YOU. IS THAT RIGHT, MAYUTCHI?

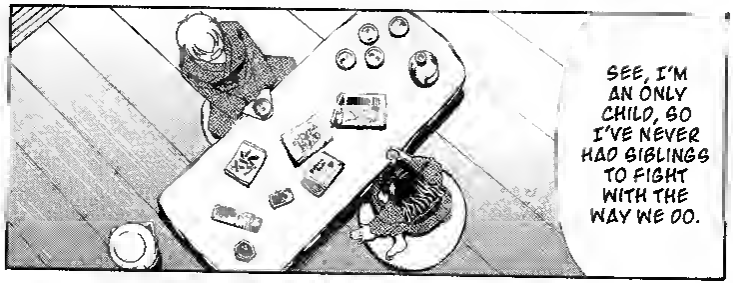
BE QUIET. YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE FUN OF BUN-BUN!
REALLY? YOU SURE IT'S NOT THAT BABY CAN'T SLEEP WITHOUT IT?

WHEN WE FIRST MET, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A DISGUSTING LITTLE BRAT....


BUT I GUESS EVEN FIGHTING WITH A SPOILED PRINCESS GETS NORMAL WHEN IT HAPPENS EVERY DAY.

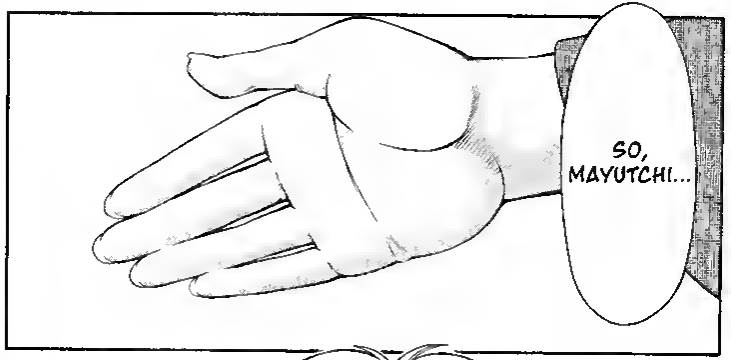

YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES I THINK ABOUT YOU AND ME, MAYUTCHI, AND I THINK...

...IT'S LIKE IF I HAD A LITTLE SISTER, SHE MIGHT BE SOMETHING LIKE YOU.


SEE, I'M AN ONLY CHILD, SO I'VE NEVER HAD SIBLINGS TO FIGHT WITH THE WAY WE DO.

THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOU TO COME TO KYUSHU WITH US, SO WE COULD MAKE UP AND MAYBE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER A LITTLE BETTER.

WE'VE ONLY EVER FOUGHT BEFORE...
...BUT YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, WHEN YOU LOOK BACK, IT WAS KIND OF FUN.


SO, MAYUTCHI...

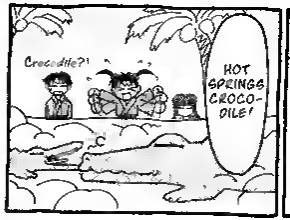
THANK YOU!

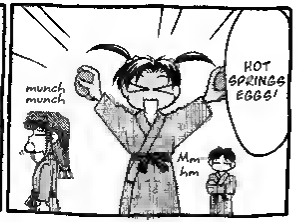
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, KIDDING YOURSELF THAT YOU CAN FIX EVERYTHING WITH FAKE SENTI-MENT
WHAT TH--?!
IT MAKES ME SICK!!

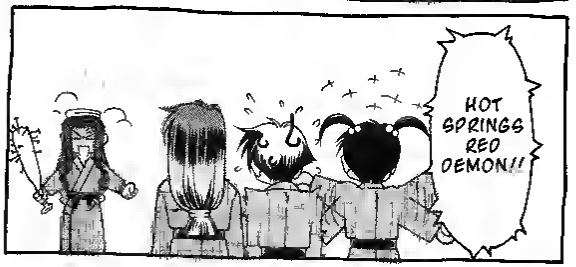
100
YOU... YOU DISGUST ME.
.....

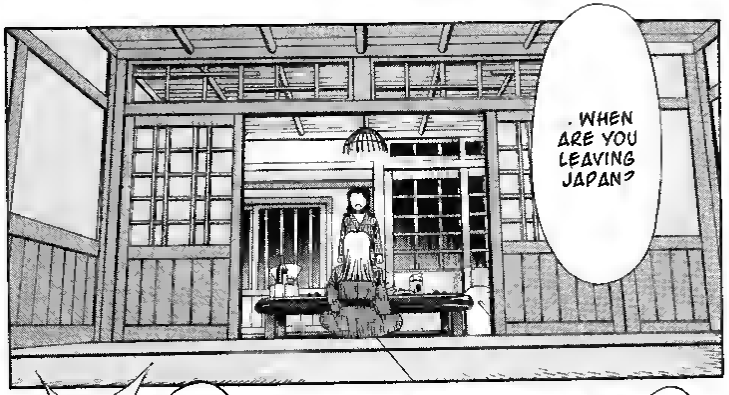
Ai-Ao Theatre Part 28

Hell Tour









End of Chapter 106: Mushizu — Disgust

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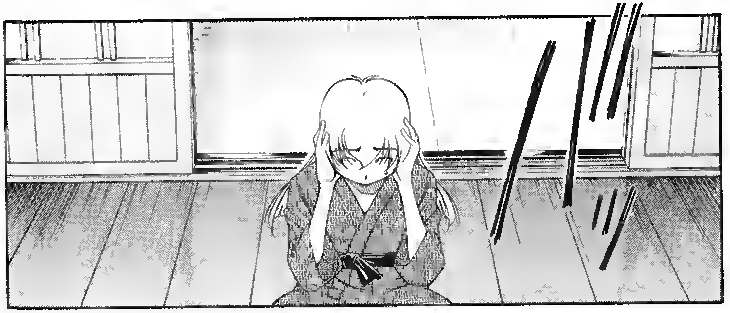
AI YORI AOSHI

CHAPTER 107 OKI BYOU - COWARDICE

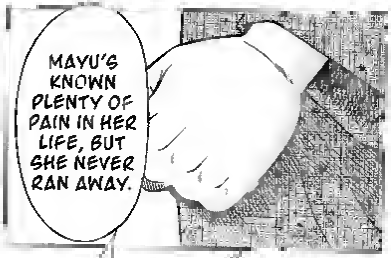
..SO YOU'RE GOING TO ORCHES-TRATE GOOD TIMES WHERE WE ALL GET ALONG
MY GUESS IS YOU DON'T WANT TO BRING EVERYONE DOWN...
THEN, ONE DAY, POOF! TINA IS GONE, BACK TO AMERICA, NOT EVEN A GOOD-BYE.
IF YOU DON'T SAY GOODBYE, THEY CAN'T MISS YOU.
BECAUSE

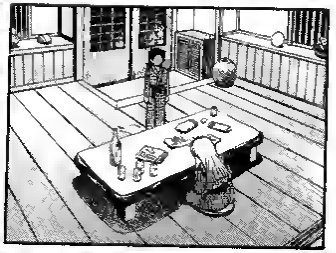
...YOU'RE SCARED OF BEING HEART-BROKEN...
...AND MISSING EVERYONE ELSE YOURSELF.



THAT'S WHY YOU SUDDENLY HAVE SUCH NICE THINGS TO SAY TO ME, NOT BECAUSE YOU ACTUALLY LIKE ME.

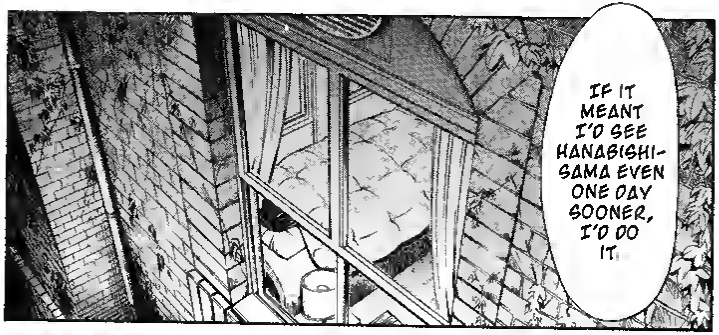
YOU THINK YOU CAN DROWN YOUR LONELINESS AND RUN FROM THE PAIN.


MAYU'S KNOWN PLENTY OF PAIN IN HER LIFE, BUT SHE NEVER RAN AWAY.



NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT HURT, I NEVER GAVE UP!!

MORE THAN ANYTHING, SEEING YOU WALLOW IN SUCH PITIFUL SELF-DELUSION ...
...IS THE THING THAT SICKENS ME THE MOST!!


IF IT MEANT I'D SEE HANABISHI-SAMA EVEN ONE DAY SOONER, I'D DO IT.

I'D DO ANYTHING TO GET BACK TO THE PLACE I MOST WANTED TO BE

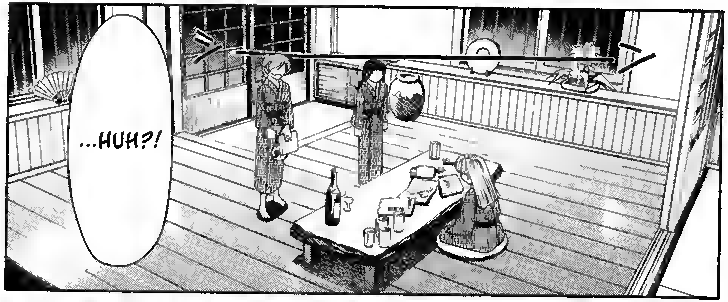
...WHO ONLY WANTS LIFE TO BE FUN AND HAPPY!
I WASN'T A COWARD LIKE YOU, WHO WON'T TAKE THE RISK OF GETTING HURT...

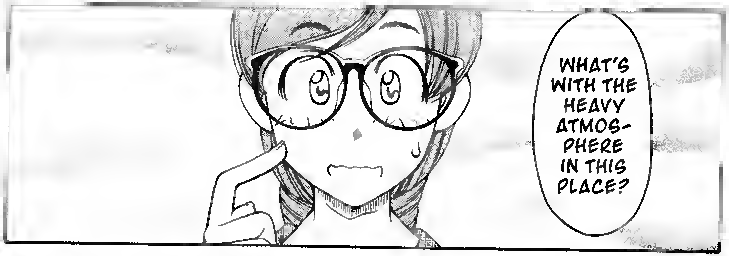
WHEN PAPA TOLD HER TO GO TO ENGLAND, MAYU WORKED FEVERISHLY.

...AND PUSH PEOPLE OUT OF THE WAY, MAYU WAS GOING TO RETURN TO JAPAN.

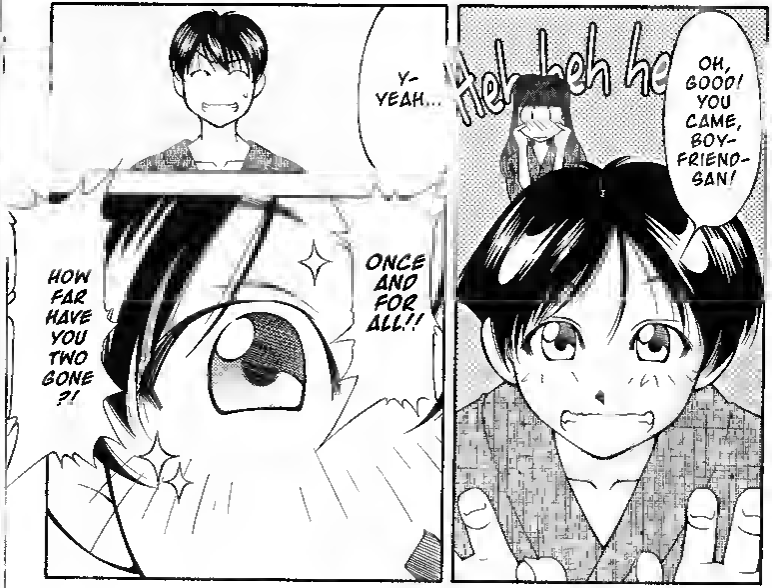
EVEN IF SHE HAD TO SKIP GRADES ...

HEY, GUYS! I'M BACK!!
I BOUGHT SOME YUMMY-LOOKING MANJU FROM THE GIFT SHOP


...HUH?!


WHAT'S WITH THE HEAVY ATMOS-PHERE IN THIS PLACE?

Hmph!
N-NO... THAT IS...
UH-OH! DID YOU AND MAYU-SAN HAVE ANOTHER FIGHT, TINA-SENPAI?

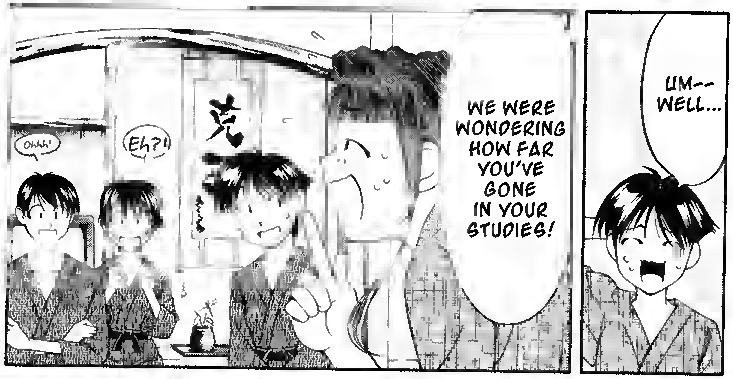

Y-YEAH...
HOW FAR HAVE YOU TWO GONE?!
ONCE AND FOR ALL!!
Heh heh he
OH, GOOO! YOU CAME, BOY-FRIEND-SAN!

IT'S TERRIBLE, IT'S TERRIBLE!! HELP ME, TAE-NEECHAN!

JUST HURRY!! YOU, TOO, TINA-ONEE-CHAN! AND MAYU-ONEE-CHAN!
WHAT-TAYA MEAN "COME PLAY"?!

COME PLAY IN CHIKA'S ROOM RIGHT NOW!!
WHAT'S WRONG, CHIKA-CHAN?

UGH THAT WOULD BE BAD...
IF AOI-SAN HEARS ABOUT HOW FAR CHIKA-CHAN'S GONE WITH KAORU-SAN, IT MIGHT MEAN SHE'D HAVE TO EVICT CHIKA-CHAN FROM THE BOARDING HOUSE.


UM-- WELL...
WE WERE WONDERING HOW FAR YOU'VE GONE IN YOUR STUDIES!
EH?!
OHH!

TH-THAT'S RIGHT.
Y-yes, that's right.
BECAUSE CHIKA-CHAN IS SO SMART.
Ahha ha ha ha!
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EH?!!
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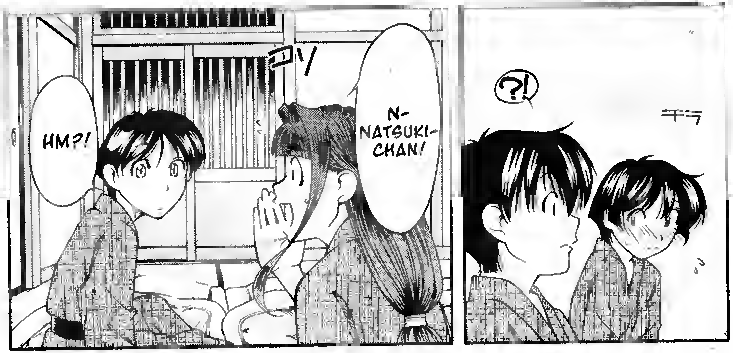
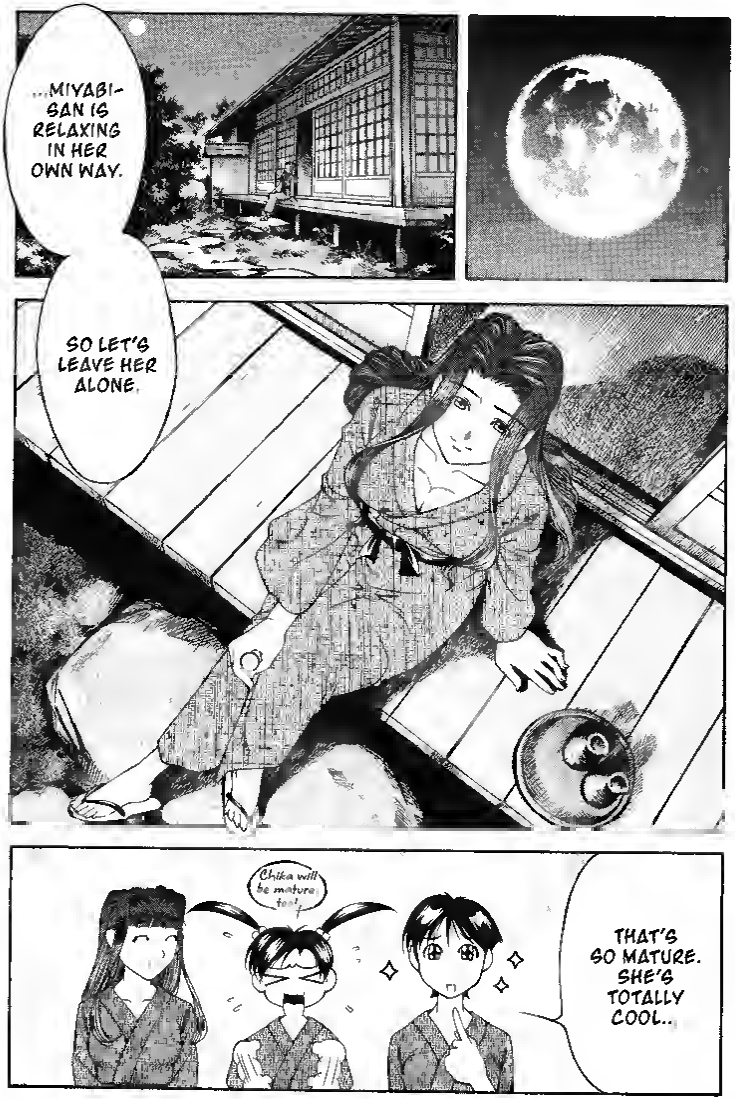
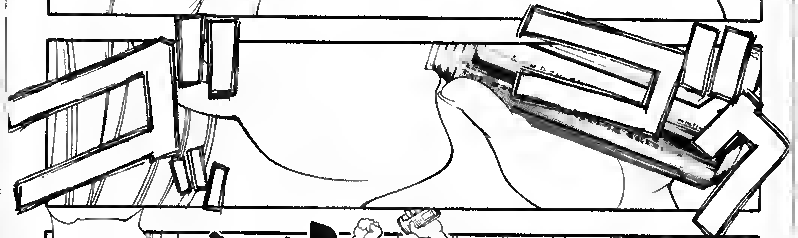
HUHHHH?!
Y-yes I have been
Y-YOU'RE HERE, TOO, AOI-SAN?


N-NATSUKI-CHAN!
HM?!
?!

I WIN!!
CHIKA-CHAN, YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS.
WHAT? AL-READY?!
RIGHT NOW, I'M SURE...
I WONDER IF WE SHOULD INVITE MIYABI-ONEE-CHAN ?


...MIYABI-SAN IS RELAXING IN HER OWN WAY.
SO LET'S LEAVE HER ALONE.
Chika will be mature, too!
THAT'S SO MATURE. SHE'S TOTALLY COOL..

NUMBER-ONE CHUG QUEEN TINA FOSTER WILL NOW DRAIN THIS BEER CAN FOR YOUR ENTERTAIN-MENT!!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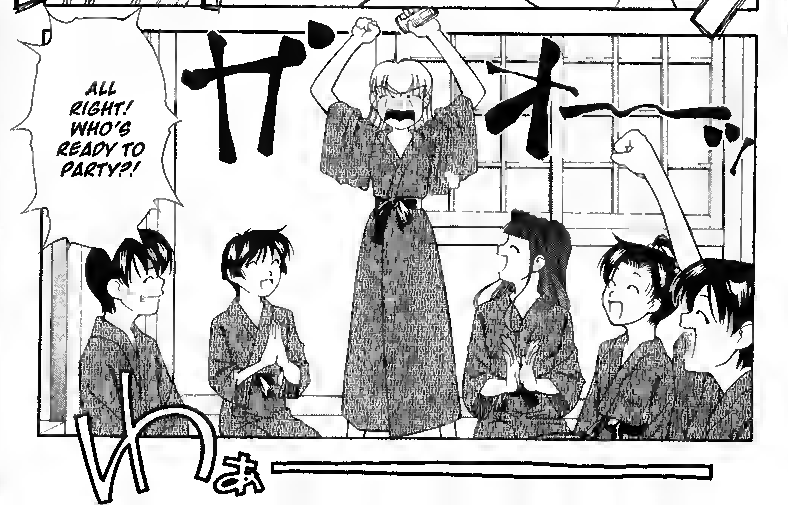
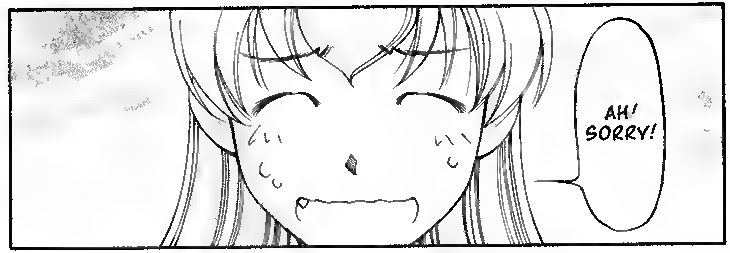
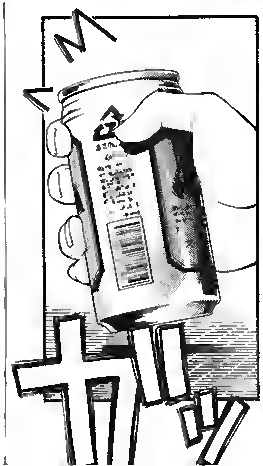

ALL RIGHT! WHO'S READY TO PARTY?!
ヤーオー
ゆさ

IT'S YOUR TURN NEXT, TINA-SAN.
HUH? WH-WHAT?!

TINA-SAN...?
TINA-SAN?


AH! SORRY!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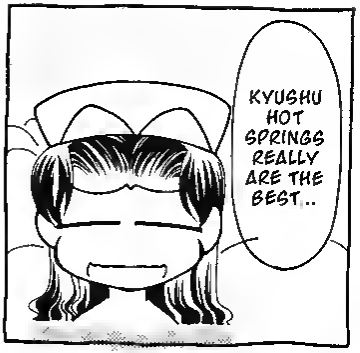
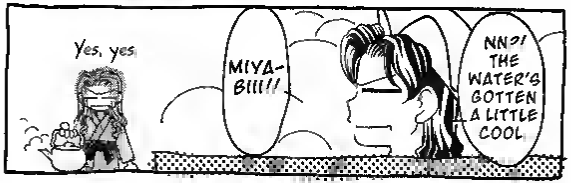
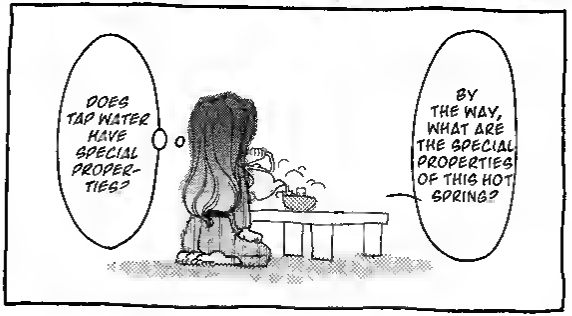
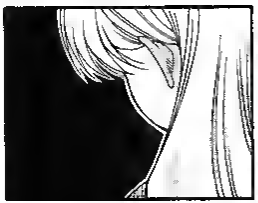
YEAH, I'M PER-FECTLY FINE!!
IS EVERY-THING OKAY?!
YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE YOURSELF. ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT...?

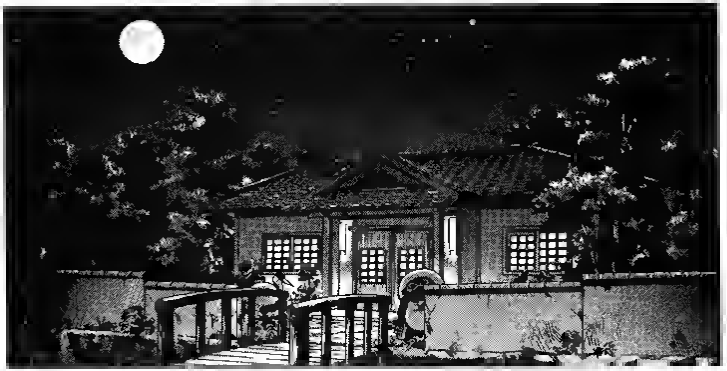


Ai-Ao Theatre Part 29: Hot Springs

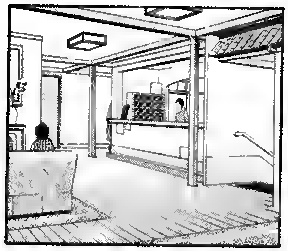


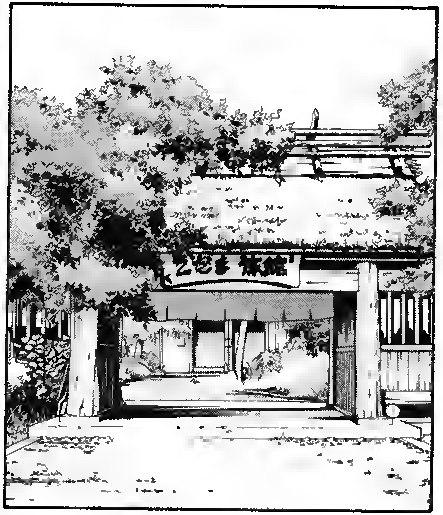


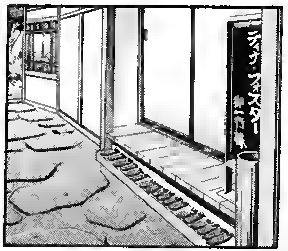




End of Chapter 107: Okubyou — Cowardice







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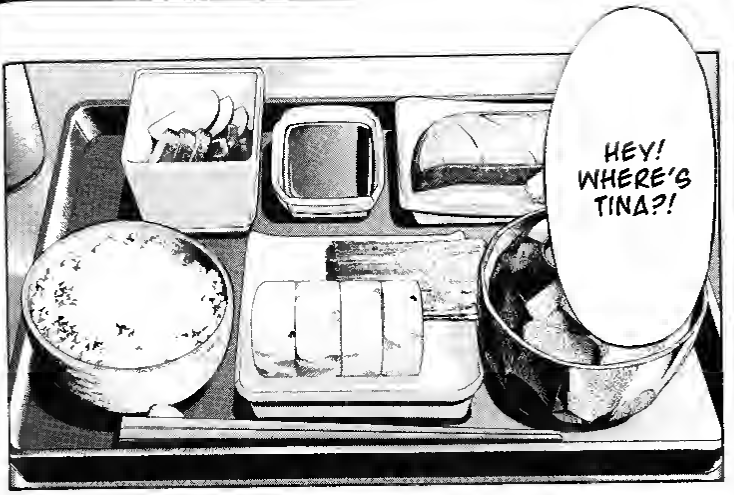
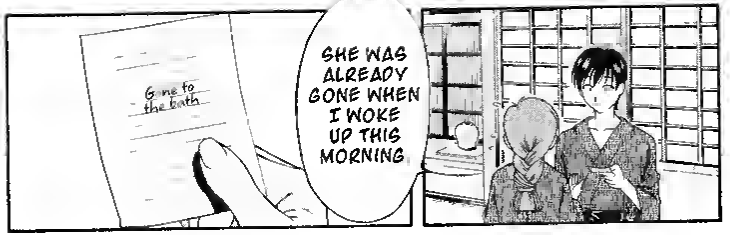
AI YORI AOSHI

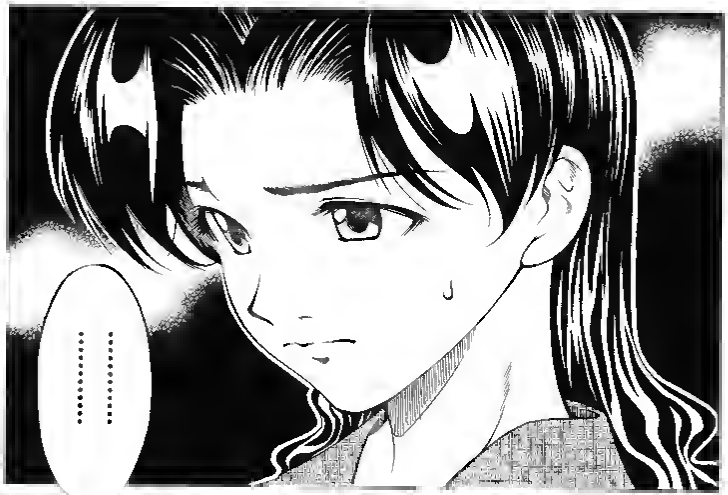
CHAPTER 108 KOKORONE TRUE FEELINGS


HEY! WHERE'S TINA?!

TINA-SENPAI? SHE LEFT THIS NOTE...


Gone to the bath
SHE WAS ALREADY GONE WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I WONDER IF SOMETHING'S WRONG?
IT'S UNUSUAL FOR TINA TO MISS BREAKFAST.


.....

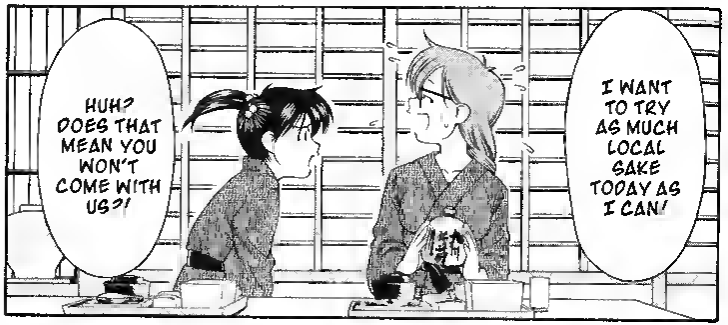
ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE, WE WERE ALL GOING TO DO OUR OWN THINGS TODAY.
IS THERE A PROBLEM?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO TODAY?
OB-VIOUS-LY
WE'RE GOING ON A HOT SPRINGS TOUR!

COME WITH US, TAE-NEECHAN!

OF COURSE WE ARE!!

IF WE TAKE THIS PASS, WE CAN BATHE IN THE HOT SPRINGS AT ALL THE OTHER INNS.
人湯手形


I WANT TO TRY AS MUCH LOCAL SAKE TODAY AS I CAN!
HUH? DOES THAT MEAN YOU WON'T COME WITH US?!

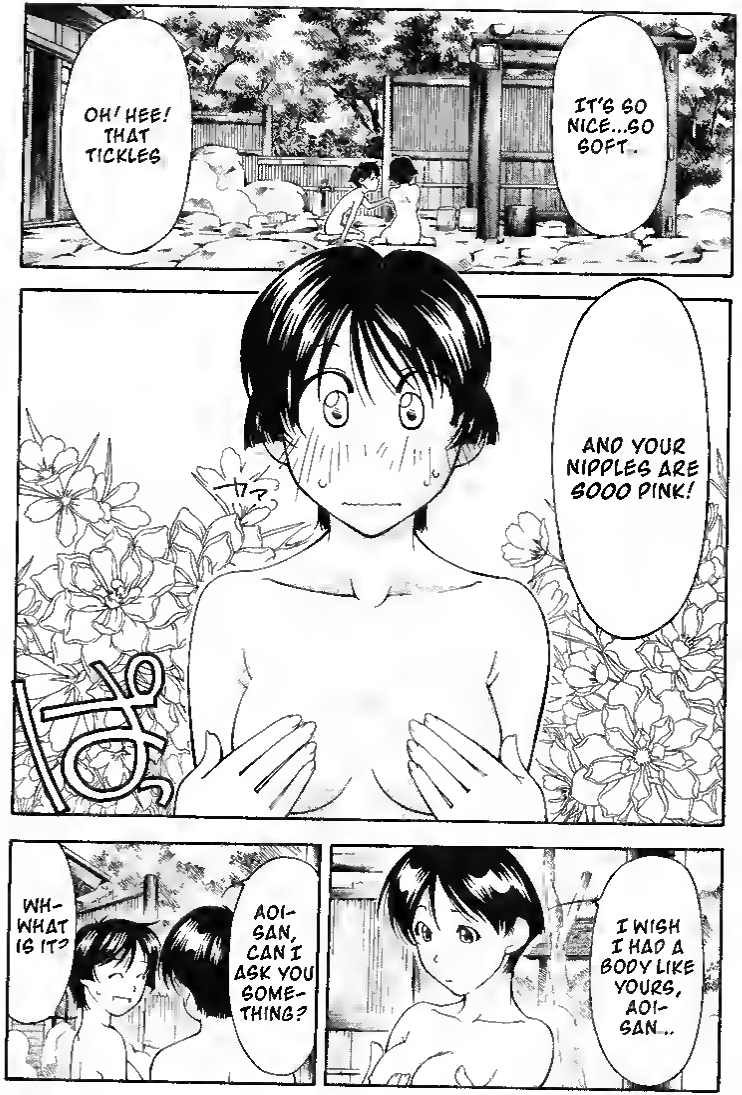
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MIYABI-ONEECHAN? MAYU-ONEECHAN?!
I'M JUST GOING TO TAKE IT EASY TODAY
MAYU WILL DECLINE AS WELL

WHAT ABOUT YOU, AOI-ONEE-CHAN?!
O-OKAY. IT M-MIGHT BE FUN.
Heh

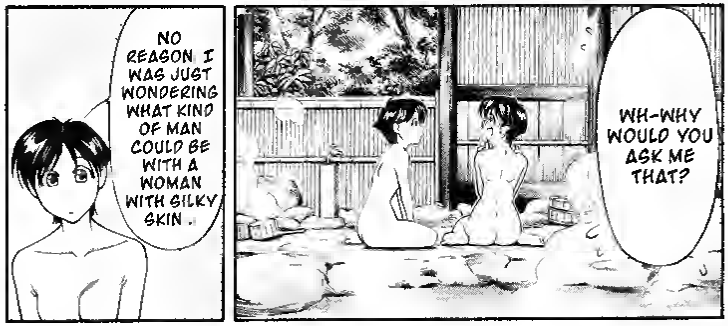
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE HAVE IT ALL TO OURSELVES!

YAAAAY!! WE'RE FIRST IN THE BATH!

...I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE THEY MUST MEAN SKIN LIKE YOURS, AOI-SAN.
DO YOU MIND IF I TOUCH IT?
UH, UM...
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
WELL, I'VE HEARD THE PHRASE "SKIN LIKE SILK," BUT...

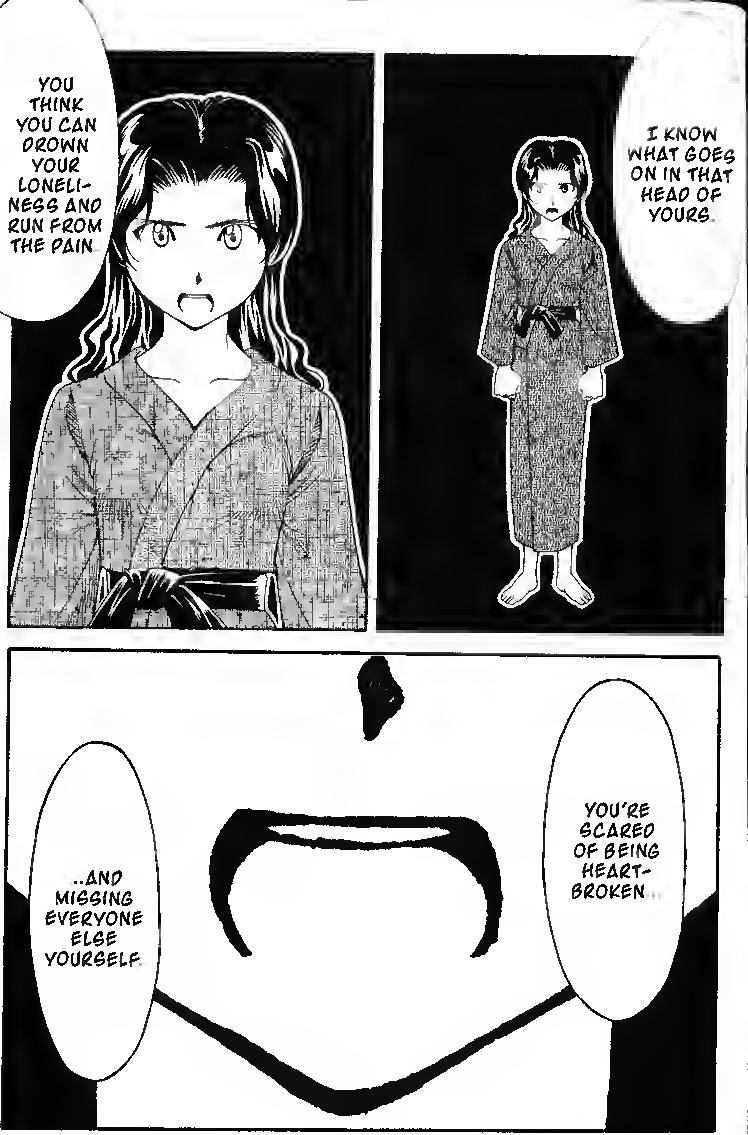

I WISH I HAD A BODY LIKE YOURS, AOI-SAN...
AOI-SAN, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
WH-WHAT IS IT?
AND YOUR NIPPLES ARE SOOO PINK!
IT'S SO NICE...SO SOFT.
OH! HEE! THAT TICKLES

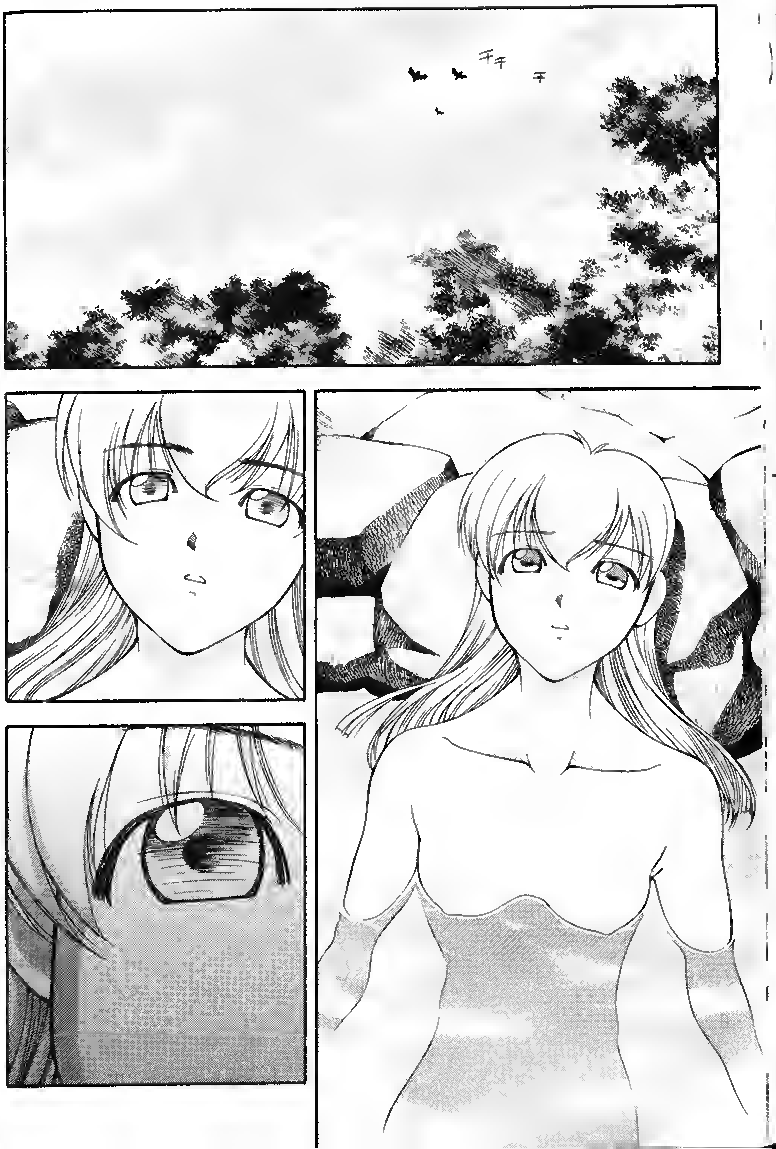
HAVE YOU HAD ANY EXPERI-ENCE WITH... MEN?!
EH?!

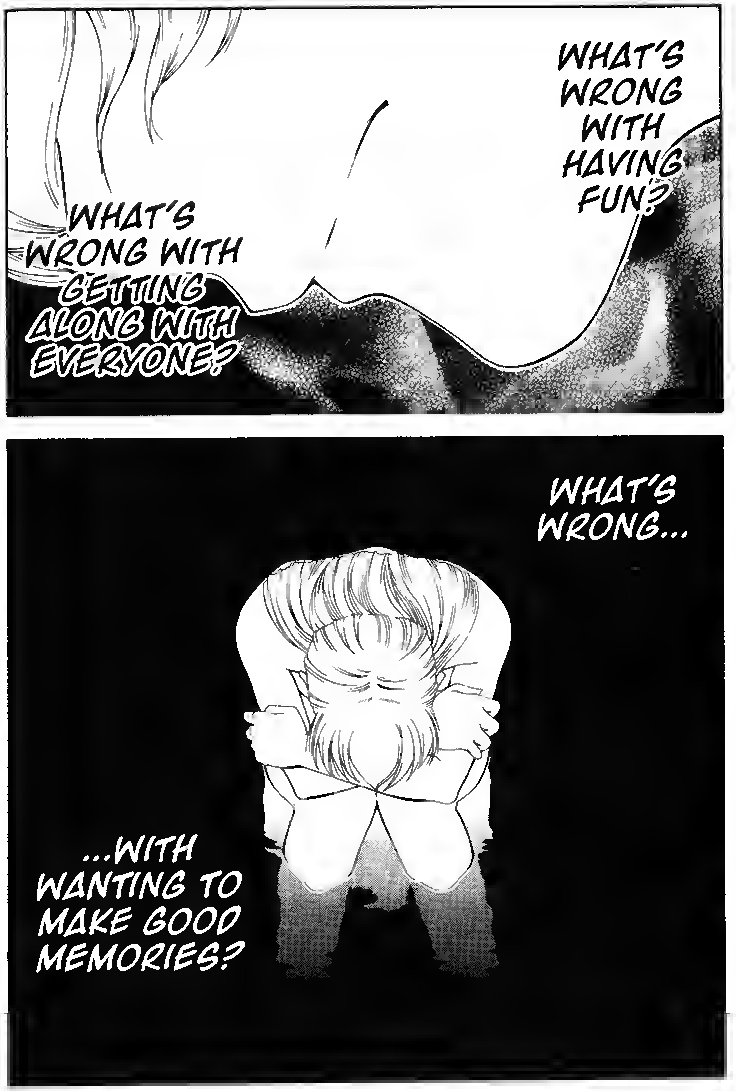

NO REASON I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT KIND OF MAN COULD BE WITH A WOMAN WITH SILKY SKIN.
WH-WHY WOULD YOU ASK ME THAT?

ああぁ

HUH?!
AOI-SAN?!
AOI-SAAAAN..?


YOU THINK YOU CAN DROWN YOUR LONELINESS AND RUN FROM THE PAIN.
I KNOW WHAT GOES ON IN THAT HEAD OF YOURS.
YOU'RE SCARED OF BEING HEARTBROKEN...
...AND MISSING EVERYONE ELSE YOURSELF.

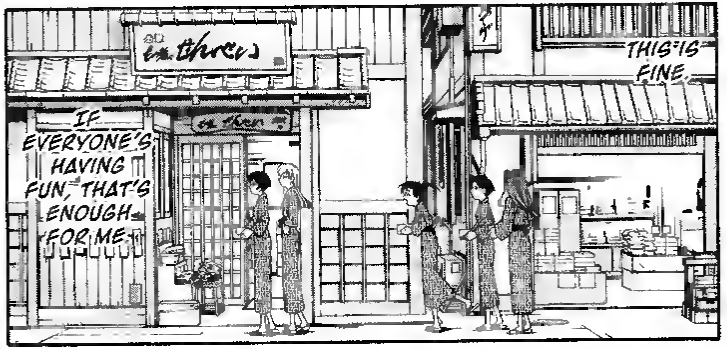



WHAT'S WRONG WITH HAVING FUN?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH GETTING ALONG WITH EVERYONE?
WHAT'S WRONG...
...WITH WANTING TO MAKE GOOD MEMORIES?

!!
DON'T RUN! IT'S DANGER-OUS
P-PLEASE, WAIT.
HURRY, HURRY!
COME ON, CHIZURU, HURRY!!
YAY!! IT'S TINA-ONEE-CHAN!
IS THAT LANDLADY-SAN AND CHIKARIN AND HER SWIM TEAM FRIENDS?!
WAPH!!

YIPEEEEE! I FOUND TINA-ONEECHAN!!
Y-yeah.
TINA-SAN... SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN?
CHIKA-SAN AND THE OTHERS ARE TAKING ME ON A HOT SPRINGS TOUR.

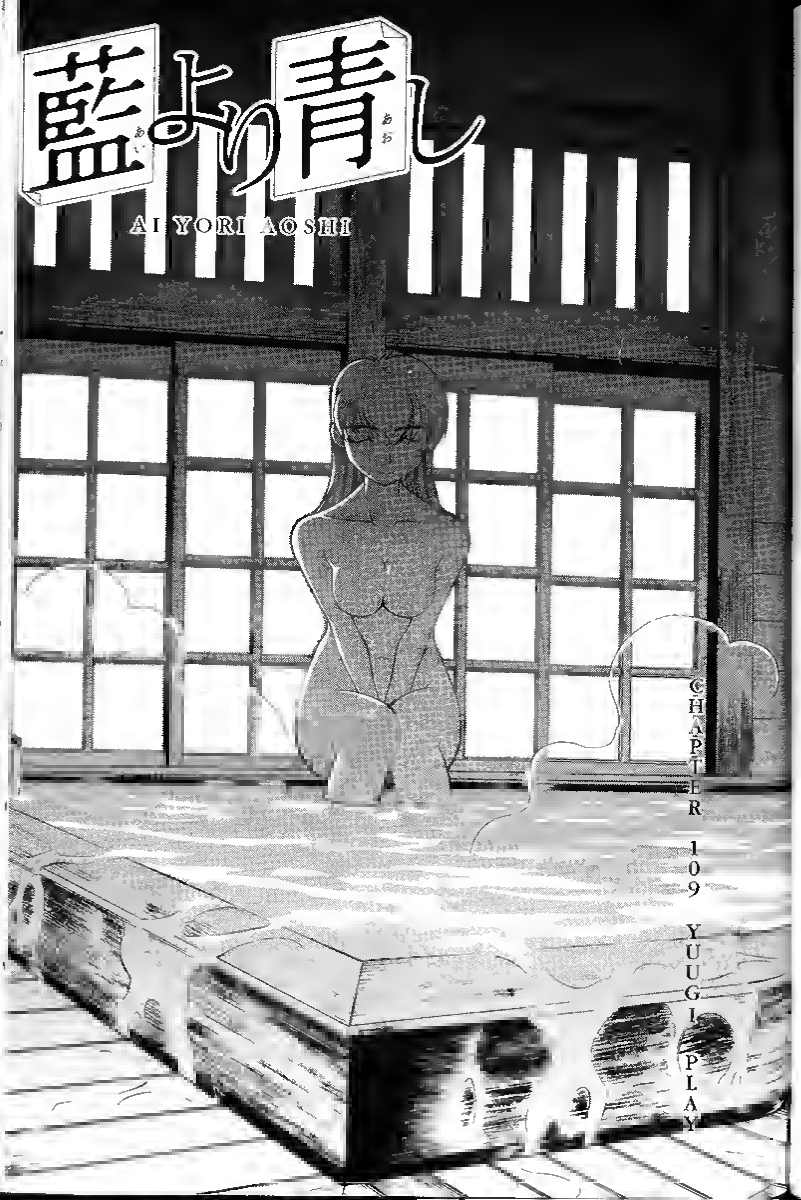
HMM?!
TINA-ONEECHAN, THIS IS A GREAT PLACE, HUH?
ニャブ
ニャブ
AND THEY'RE ALL SO BIG!
THERE ARE TONS OF OPEN-AIR BATHS!
R-REALLY?!
Ah ha ha
WE OWE YOU A DEBT OF GRATITUDE FOR TAKING US ON SUCH A FUN TRIP, TINA-SAN

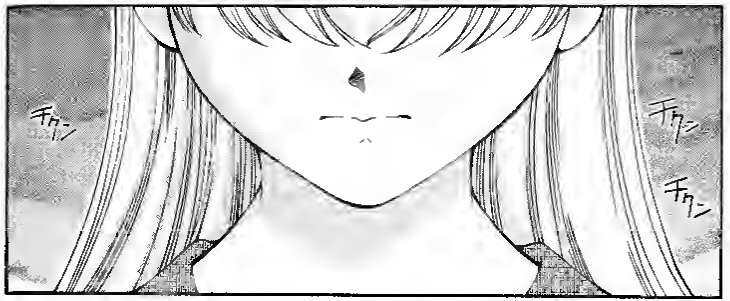

THIS IS FINE.
IF EVERYONE'S HAVING FUN, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.

AOI-CHAN?
KAORU-SAMA!!
AH!
THAT ALONE...

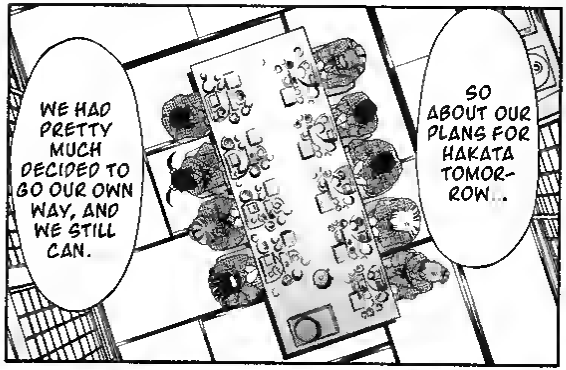
ドク

...IS THE THING THAT SICKENS ME THE MOST!!
MORE THAN ANYTHING, SEEING YOU WALLOW IN SUCH PITIFUL SELF-DELUSION...





End of Chapter 108: Kokorone — True Feelings


WE HAD PRETTY MUCH DECIDED TO GO OUR OWN WAY, AND WE STILL CAN.
SO ABOUT OUR PLANS FOR HAKATA TOMOR-ROW...

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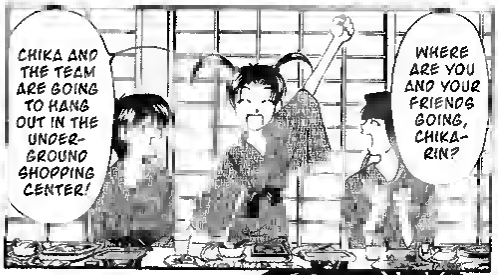
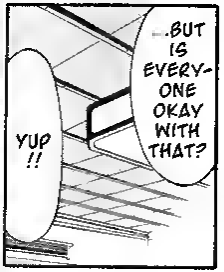
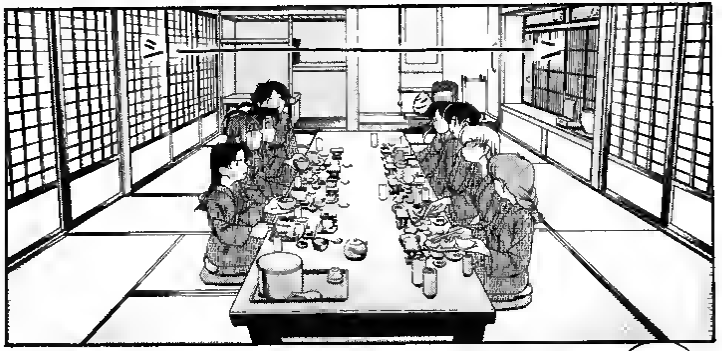

CHIKA AND THE TEAM ARE GOING TO HANG OUT IN THE UNDER-GROUND SHOPPING CENTER!
WHERE ARE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS GOING, CHIKA-RIN?


YUP !!
...BUT IS EVERY-ONE OKAY WITH THAT?

I WAS THINKING I WOULD GO TO SEE THE HAKATA DOLLS.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, LANDLADY-SAN?

HO A-OUT OW PWAMZ--
--HOA HOMOW-WOW.

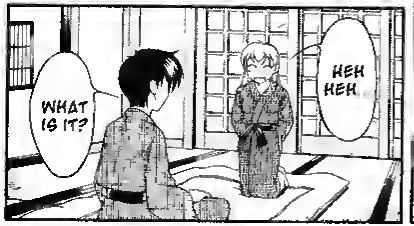


TINA-ONEECHAN, WE CAN'T UNDER-STAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYING
TALKING OR EATING--PICK ONE!

IT WOULD BE NICE IF I COULD TAKE KAORU-SAMA WITH ME
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO, TINA-ONEE-CHAN?!
ME? I...
I WAS THINKING I'D LIKE TO GO ON A DATE WITH KAORU!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
THIS IS THE FIRST I'M HEARING THIS!
BUT--
WHY NOT, WHY NOT?!
CAN'T I JUST SPEND ONE ROTTEN DAY WITH KAORU?
A-ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT, CHIKA?
HUH?!
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT US, WE DON'T MIND GOING OFF BY OURSELVES.
OH, NO, IT'S OKAY!!
Why not?!
BESIDES, WHEN TINA-ONEECHAN HAS HER MIND SET ON SOMETHING, THERE'S NO CHANGING IT.

HEY! WHAT'S UP, TINA?

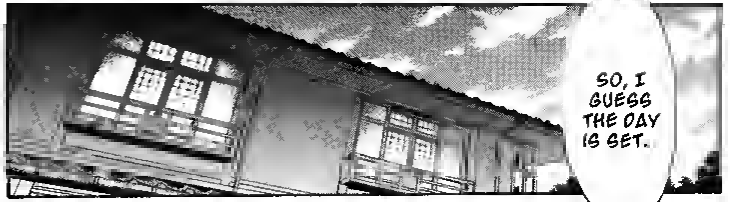
KAORU, CAN I COME IN?


WHAT IS IT?
HEH HEH

NOT CHAINING HIM DOWN! SHE REALLY KNOWS HOW TO MAKE A BOY STICK AROUND.
A formidable master of love!
WOW... YOU'RE ACTING LIKE SOME WEIRD GROWN-UP, CHIKA.

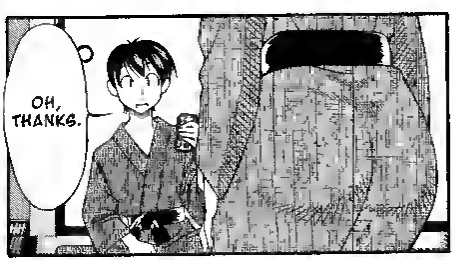
AFTER ALL, YOU DID ORGANIZE THIS TRIP AND DESERVE SOME-THING.
I'LL LET YOU HAVE KAORU TOMOR-ROW.

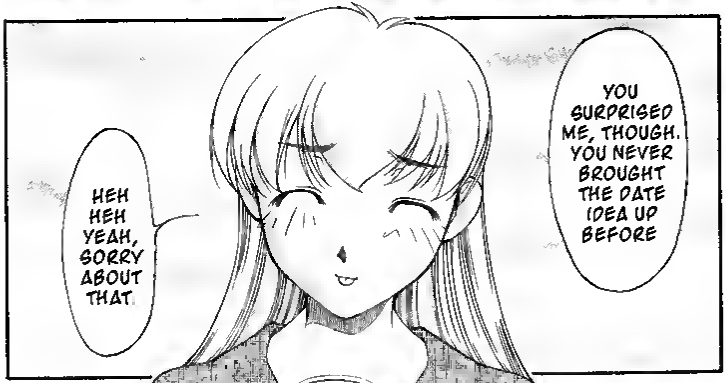
.....
I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO STOP-PING IT.

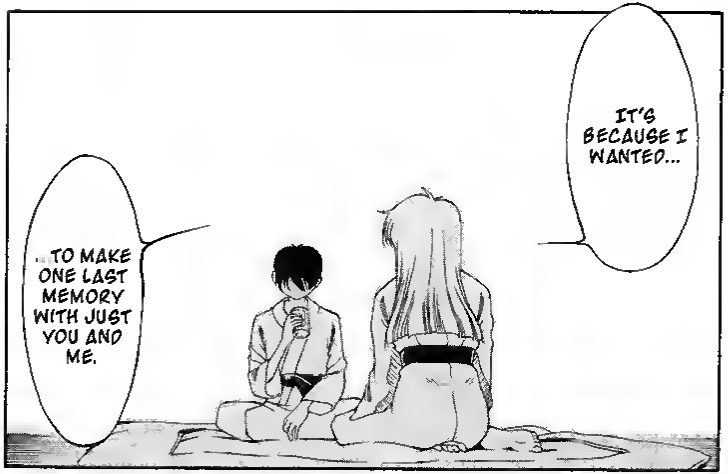

SO, I GUESS THE DAY IS SET.

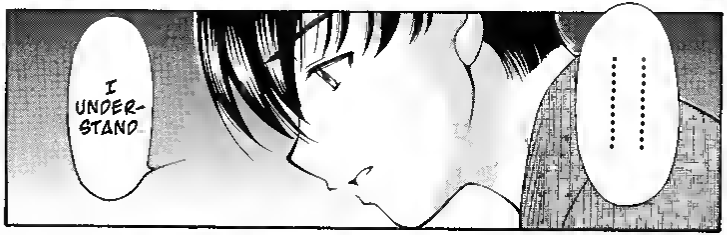
FOR YOU!!

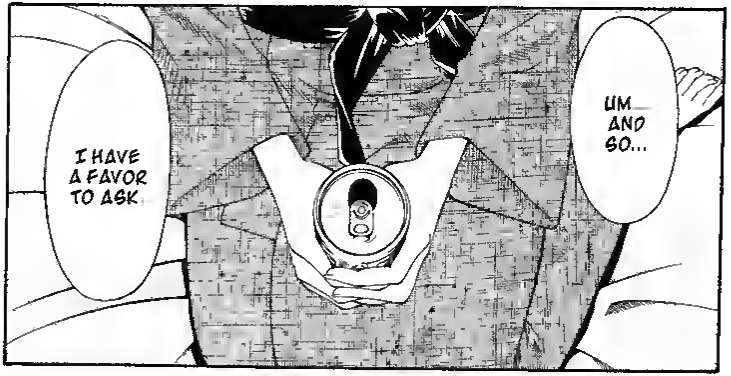
SO, TOMORROW WE'RE GOING TO HAKATA
YUP


OH, THANKS.

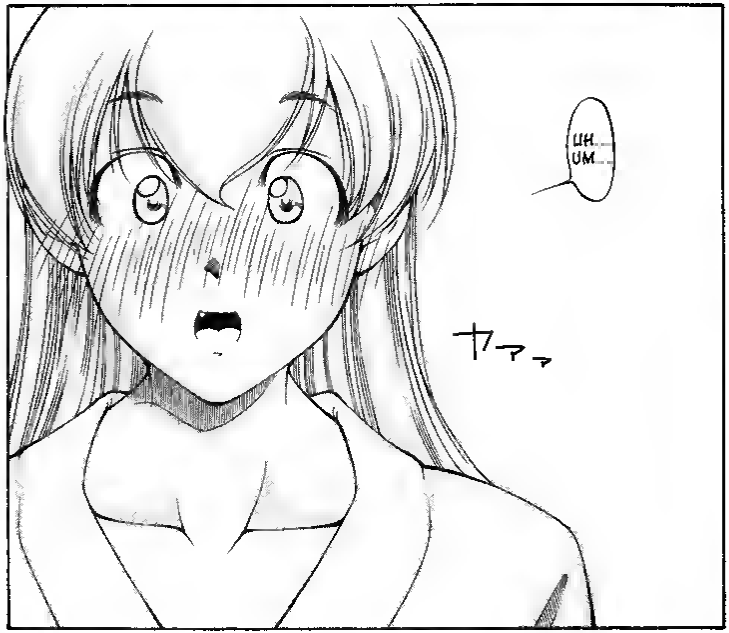

YOU SURPRISED ME, THOUGH. YOU NEVER BROUGHT THE DATE IDEA UP BEFORE
HEH HEH YEAH, SORRY ABOUT THAT.

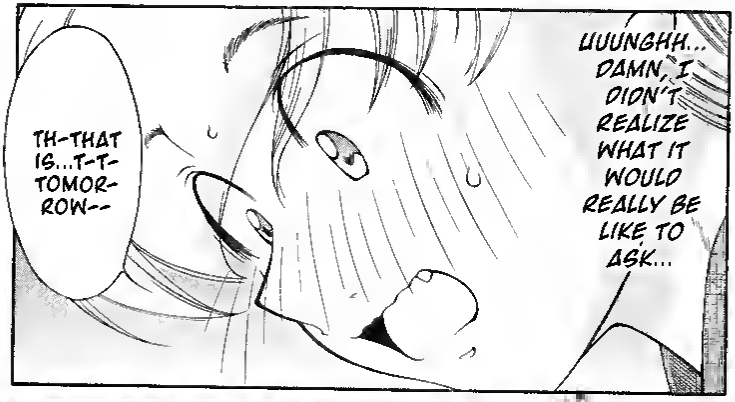

IT'S BECAUSE I WANTED...
...TO MAKE ONE LAST MEMORY WITH JUST YOU AND ME.


.....
I UNDERSTAND


UM... AND SO...
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK

YEAH ?!

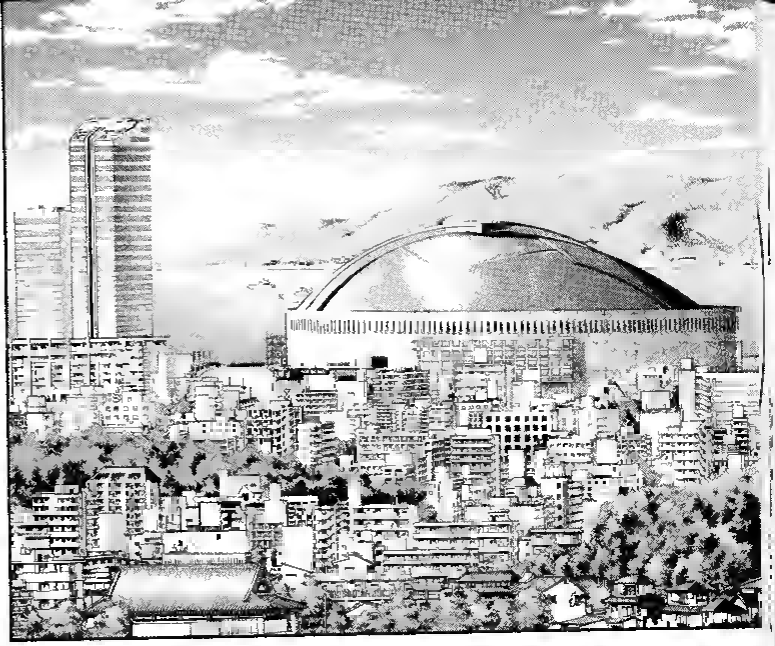

UH... UM...

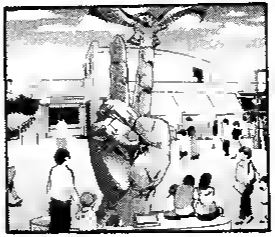

TH-THAT IS...T-T-TOMOR-ROW--
UUUNGHH... DAMN, I DION'T REALIZE WHAT IT WOULD REALLY BE LIKE TO ASK...

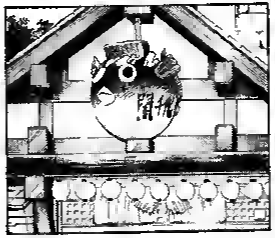
Breeee

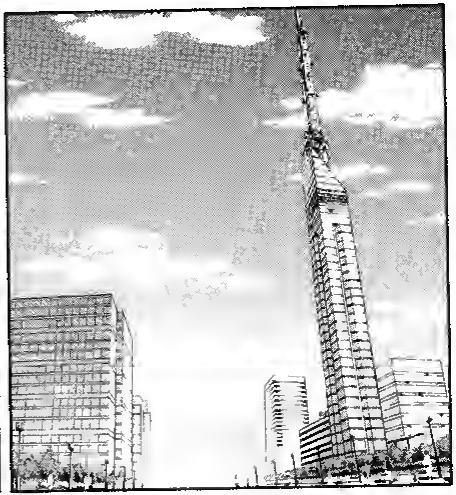
LET'S A-ACT LIKE WE'RE BOYFRIEND AND GIRL-FRIEND!!
...HUH?!

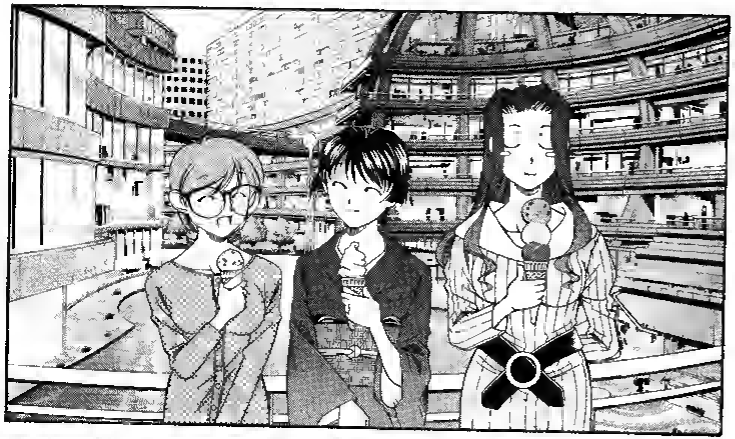
I WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF ASKING YOU ON A DATE, SO WHY NOT HAVE A REAL ONE?!
IT WON'T BE AS MUCH FUN IF WE JUST GO AROUND LIKE WE ALWAYS DO!!
You have to! You have to!
PRETENDING TO REALLY BE MY BOYFRIEND!!
BUT PRETEND REAL!!
O-OKAY, I GUESS.

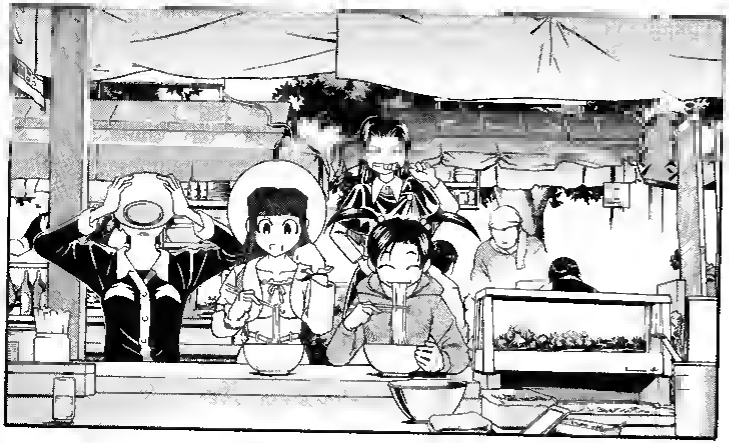


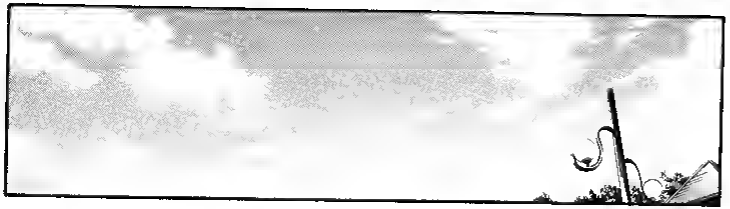


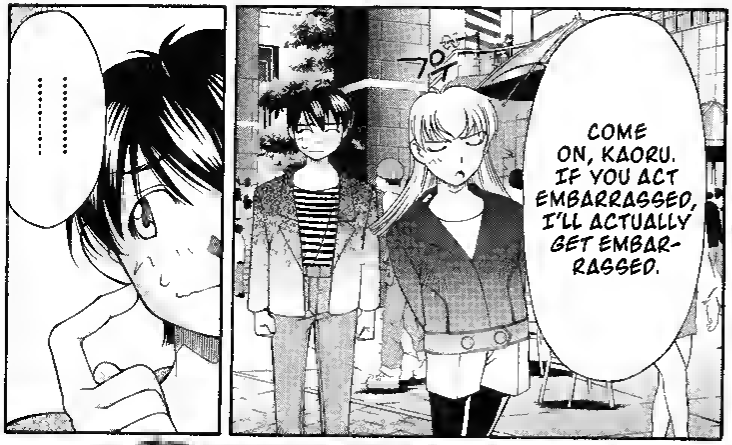


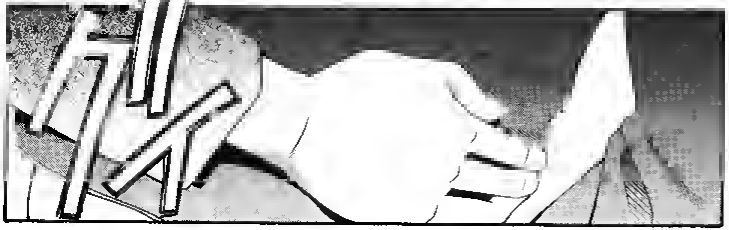









.....
COME ON, KAORU. IF YOU ACT EMBARRASSED, I'LL ACTUALLY GET EMBARRASSED.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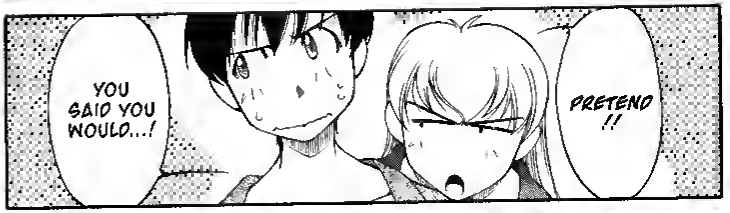
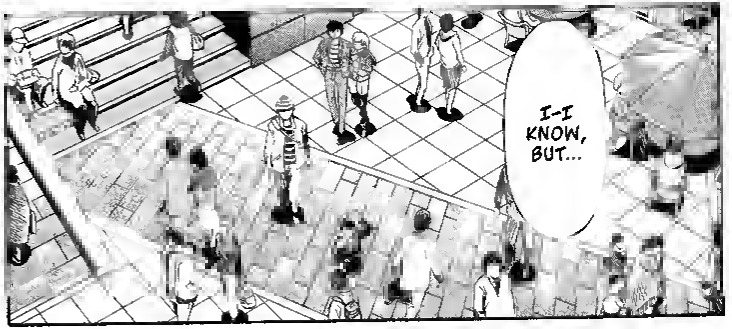
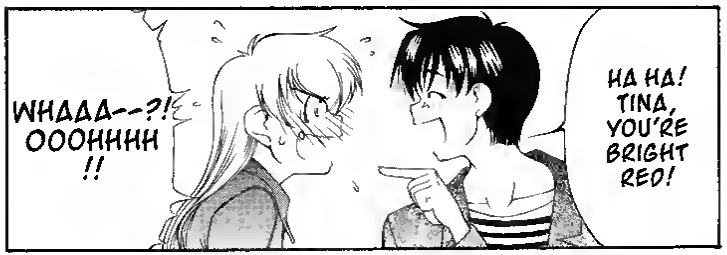
ARE YOU COLD, TINA?

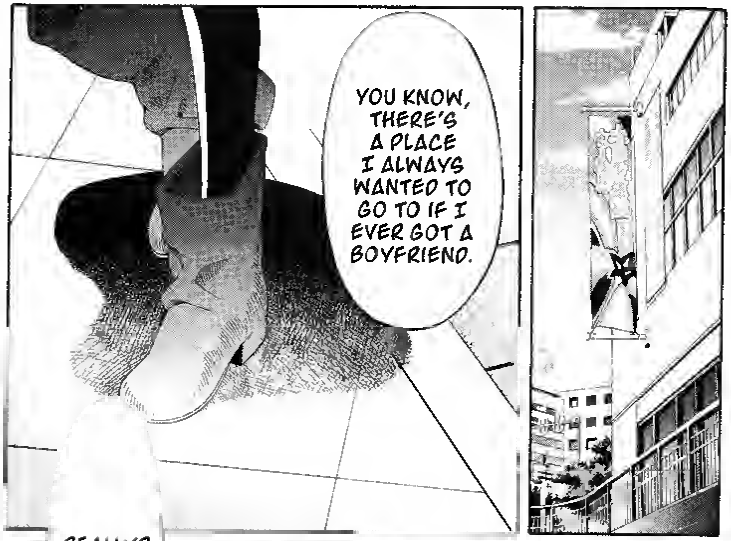
KAAAO-RU!!
H-HEY...


YOU SAID YOU WOULD...!
PRETEND !!


I-I KNOW, BUT...

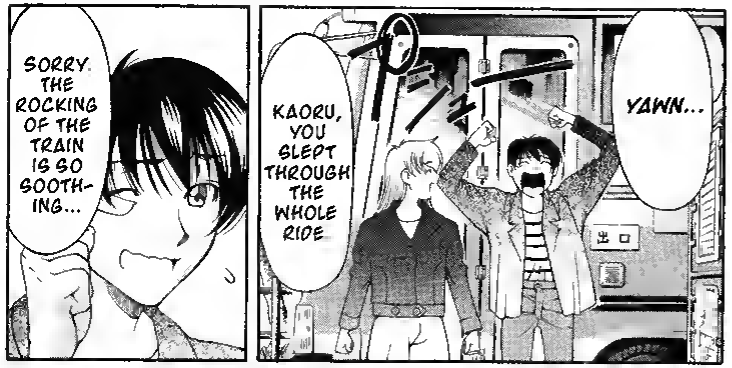
AH, UH, NO...


HA HA! TINA, YOU'RE BRIGHT RED!
WHAAA--?! OOOHHHH !!


YOU KNOW, THERE'S A PLACE I ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO IF I EVER GOT A BOYFRIEND.

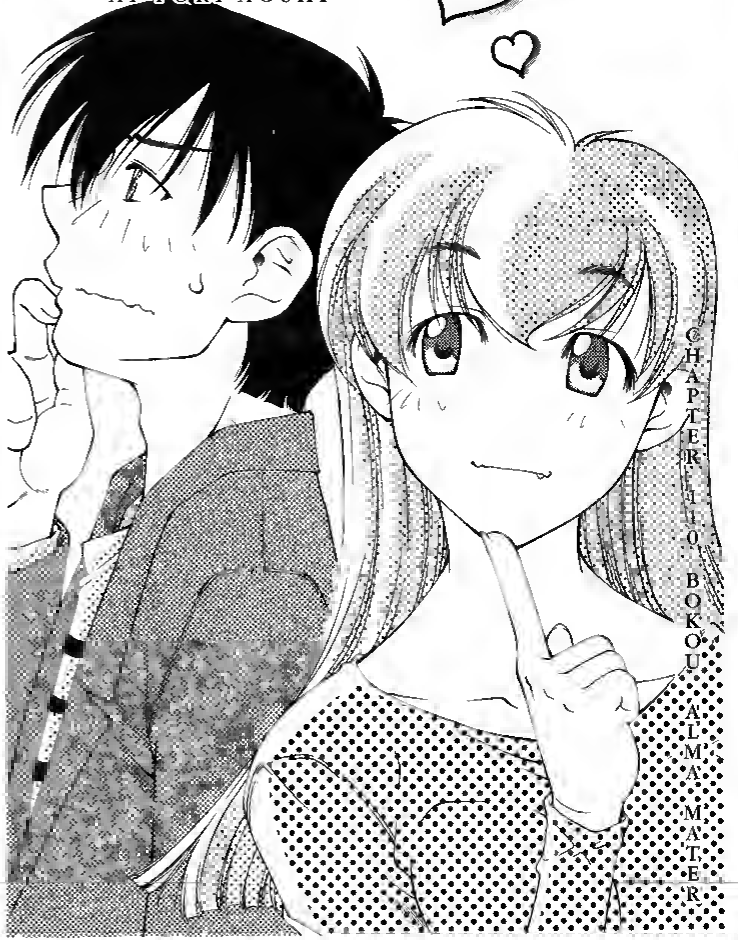
REALLY? WHERE'S THAT?

End of Chapter 109: Yuugi — Play



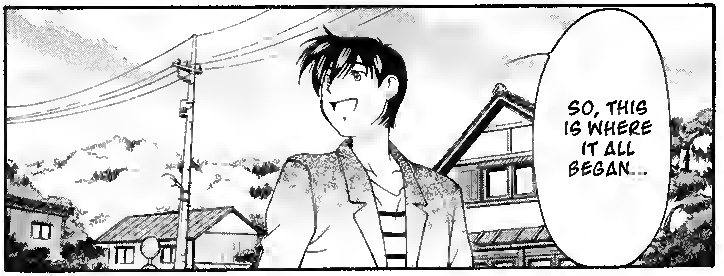
藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

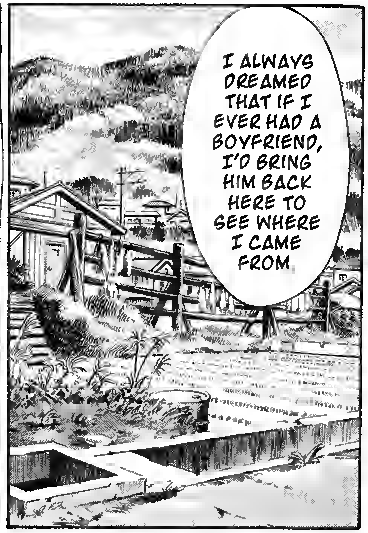


CHAPTER 110 BOKU, ALMA MATER

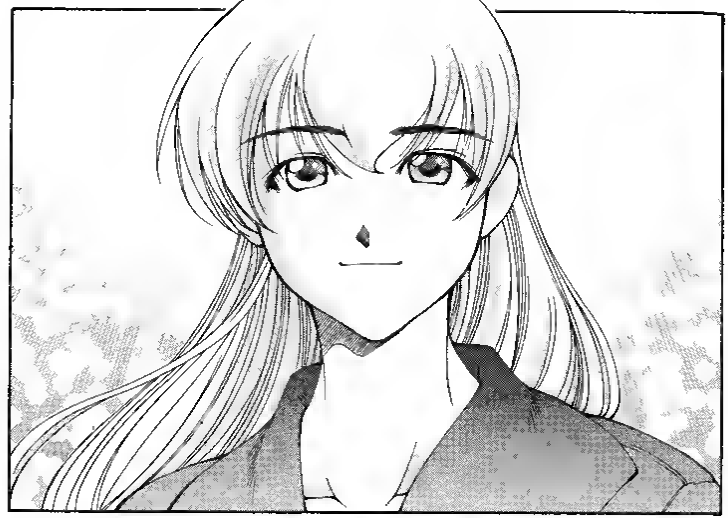
YUP. THIS IS WHERE I GREW UP.
IT'S MY HOME-TOWN.


SO, THIS IS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU DID TELL ME THAT.
YOU ALREADY SHOWED ME WHERE YOU GREW UP, SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD ONLY BE FAIR

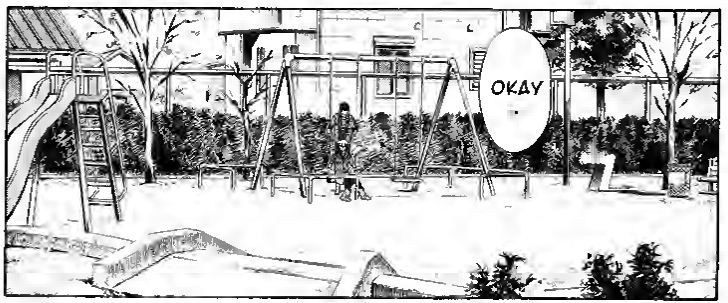

I ALWAYS DREAMED THAT IF I EVER HAD A BOYFRIEND, I'D BRING HIM BACK HERE TO SEE WHERE I CAME FROM.

IT HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL IT'S EXACTLY HOW I REMEMBER IT!
I'M SO HAPPY --!!



COME ON, TINA!

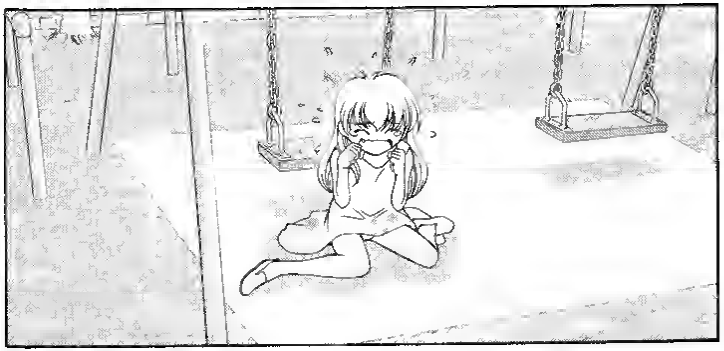
EH ?!
YOU WANT TO TAKE A RIDE?

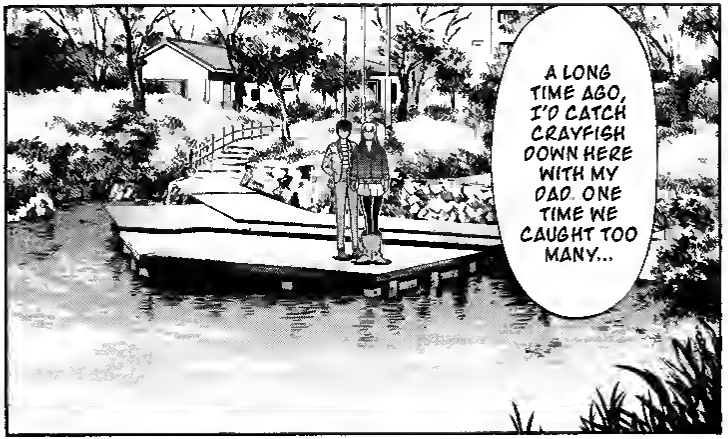

OKAY

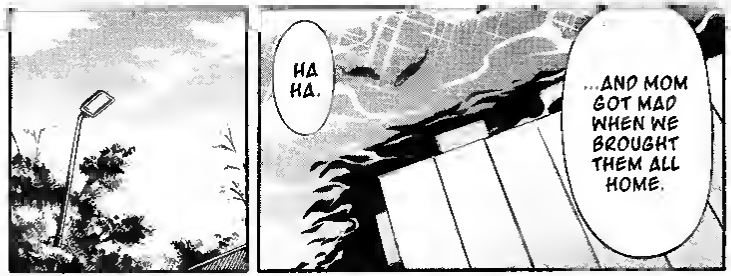
WHOA! THIS SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES!

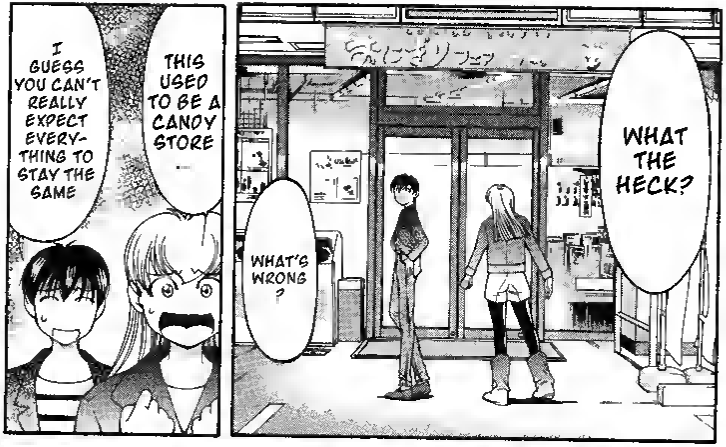
ONE TIME I FELL OFF THOSE SWINGS AND CRIED FOR HOURS

SEE OVER THERE?




A LONG TIME AGO, I'D CATCH CRAYFISH DOWN HERE WITH MY DAD. ONE TIME WE CAUGHT TOO MANY...

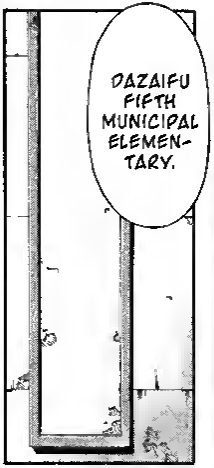

HA HA.
...AND MOM GOT MAD WHEN WE BROUGHT THEM ALL HOME.


I GUESS YOU CAN'T REALLY EXPECT EVERY-THING TO STAY THE SAME
THIS USED TO BE A CANDY STORE...
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT THE HECK?

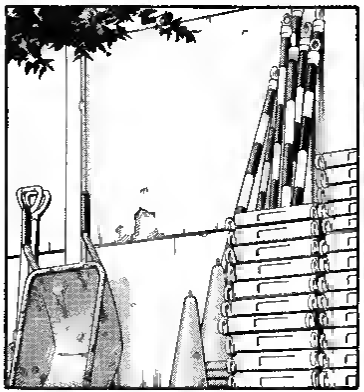
しょぼん
SHOOT. I WANTED TO BUY A TON OF CANDY WITH YOU, KAORU.

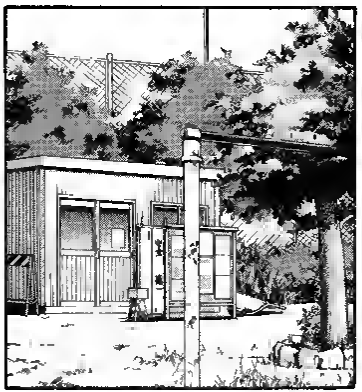
WHAT'S THIS PLACE?

IT'S MY ELE-MENTARY SCHOOL.

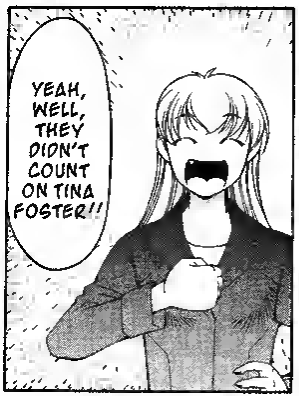

DAZAIFU FIFTH MUNICIPAL ELEMEN-TARY.

Due to construction
No
admitt
BUT IT'S...





H-HEY--
I'VE GOT A RIGHT TO VISIT. THIS IS MY ALMA MATER!


YEAH, WELL, THEY DIDN'T COUNT ON TINA FOSTER!!

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY DON'T WANT US GETTING IN.

YEAH. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE DECIDED TO TEAR IT DOWN.

THE BUILDING WAS ALREADY ANCIENT WHEN I ATTENDED HERE.

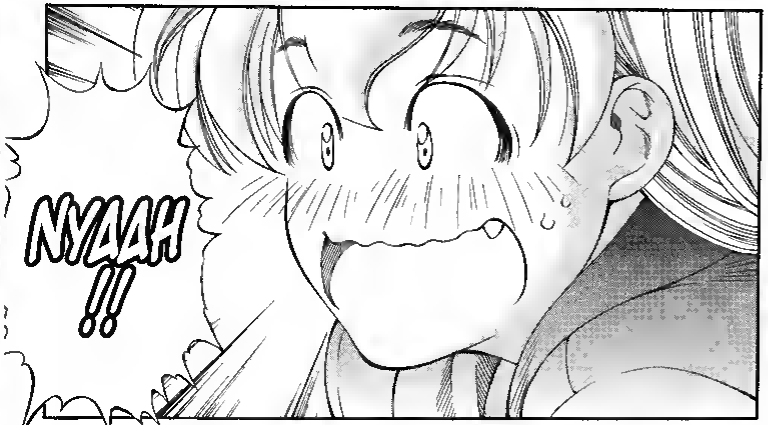
YOU KNEW?
BEFORE... WHEN THE TV WAS ON IN THE ROOM, IT WAS ON THE NEWS.

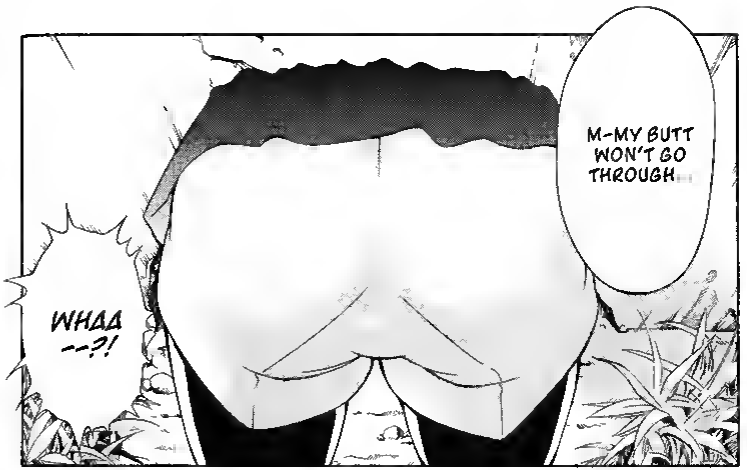
IS THAT WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO ORGANIZE THE TRIP TO KYUSHU?!

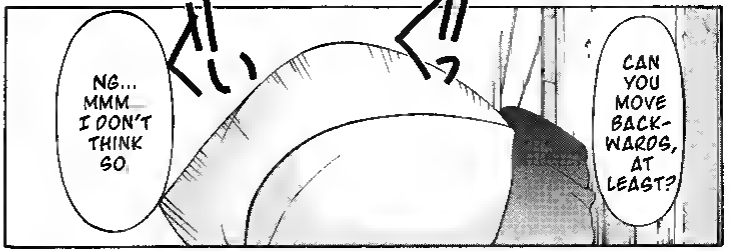
HERE IT IS, HERE IT IS!!
THANK GOODNESS IT'S NOT PLUGGED UP!
OOF!
OOF...
THIS IS HOW I'D SNEAK IN WHENEVER IT LOOKED LIKE I WAS GOING TO BE LATE.

IS SOME-THING WRONG, TINA?
...N-NO...
THAT IS... I...

ムニ
ズ!!


NYAAH!!


M-MY BUTT WON'T GO THROUGH...
WHAA--?!

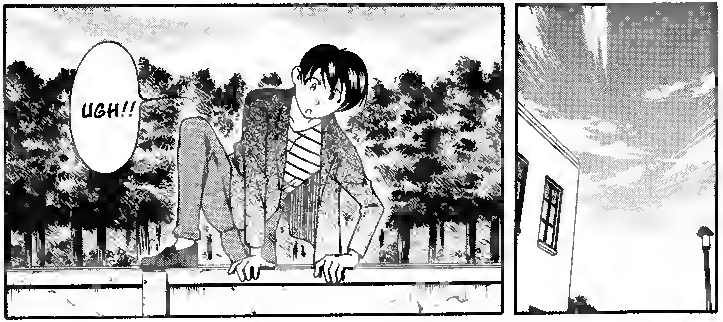

NG... MMM... I DON'T THINK SO.
CAN YOU MOVE BACK-WARDS, AT LEAST?

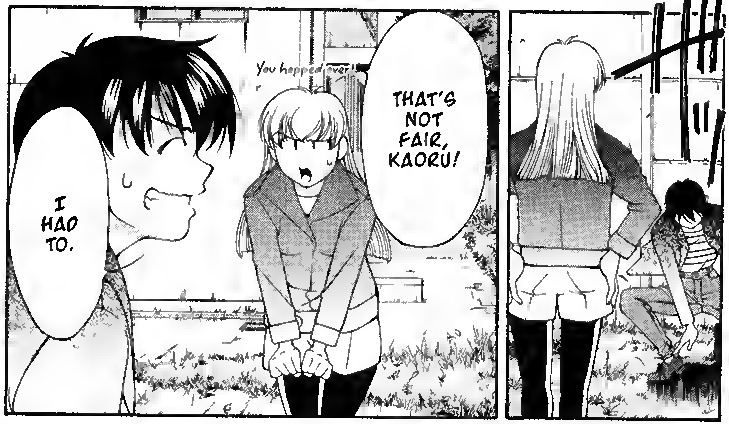
O-OKAY!!
COME ON! HURRY UP AND PUSH ME!!

WHA--?! BUT
KAORU, GIVE ME A SHOVE!

N-NO, NOT MY TUSH! OHHHH, KAORU, YOU PERVERT!!

W-WELL...
THEN WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO PUSH FROM?


UGH!!


You hopped over!!
THAT'S NOT FAIR, KAORU!
I HAD TO.

IF YOUR BEHIND DIDN'T FIT, TINA, THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HAVE GOTTEN MY SHOULDERS THROUGH

YOU KNOW, WITH ALL OF THESE THINGS CHANGING, AND SOME OF THEM STAYING THE SAME...
Nnngh

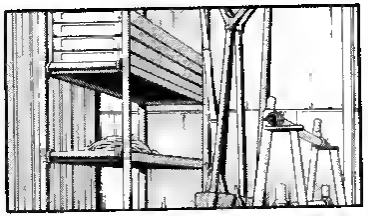
藍より青し

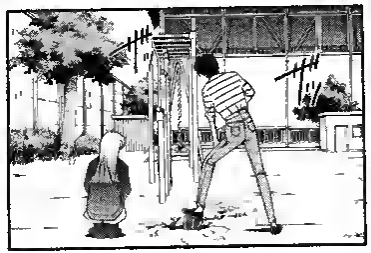
AI YORI AOSHI

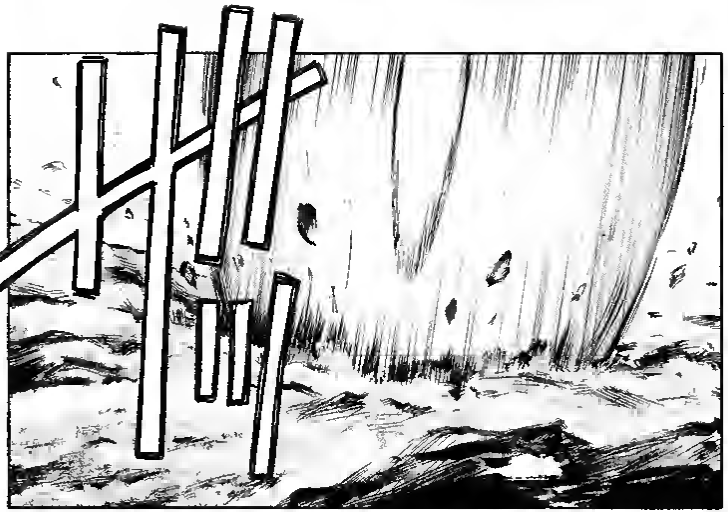
CHAPTER 111 TAKARABAKO TREASURE BOX

...DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE BIGGEST CHANGE...
...HAPPENED IN YOU, TINA?
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!
YEAH... MAYBE.
HUNT FOR TREA-SURE?!
HUNT FOR TREASURE!!

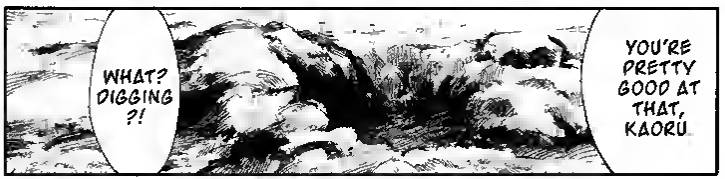
End of Chapter 110: Bokou — Alma Mater

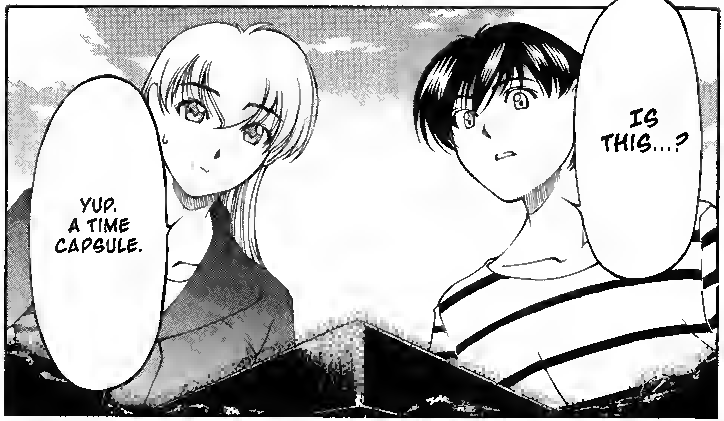


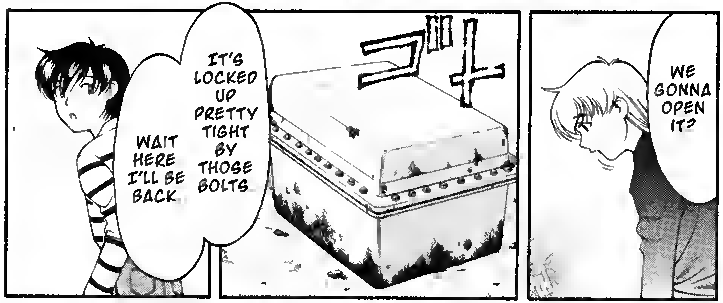


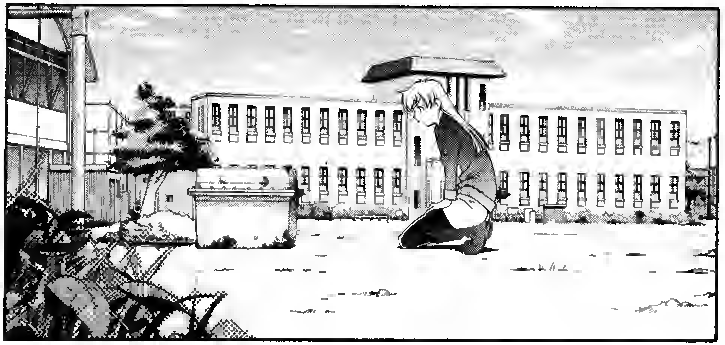


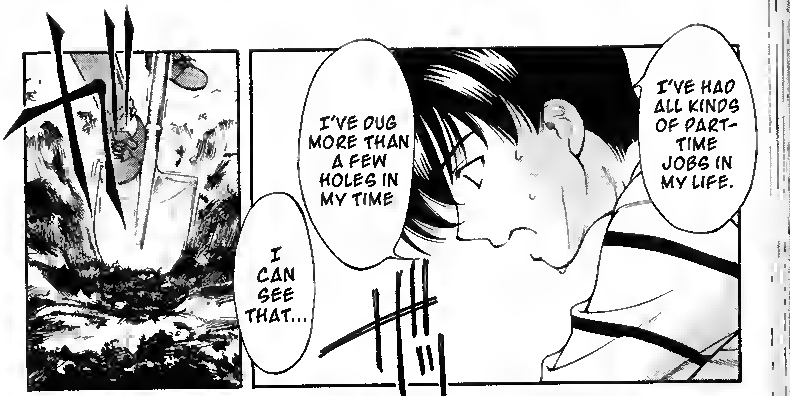
HM?! WHAT?
Phew

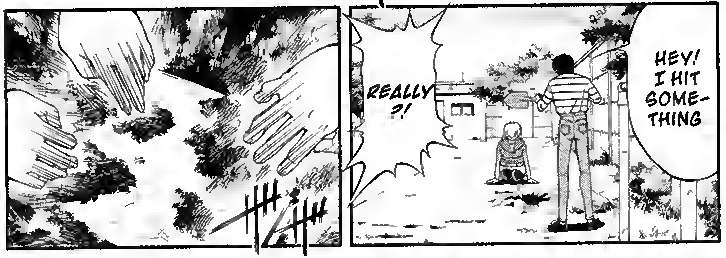

WHAT? DIGGING ?!
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THAT, KAORU.

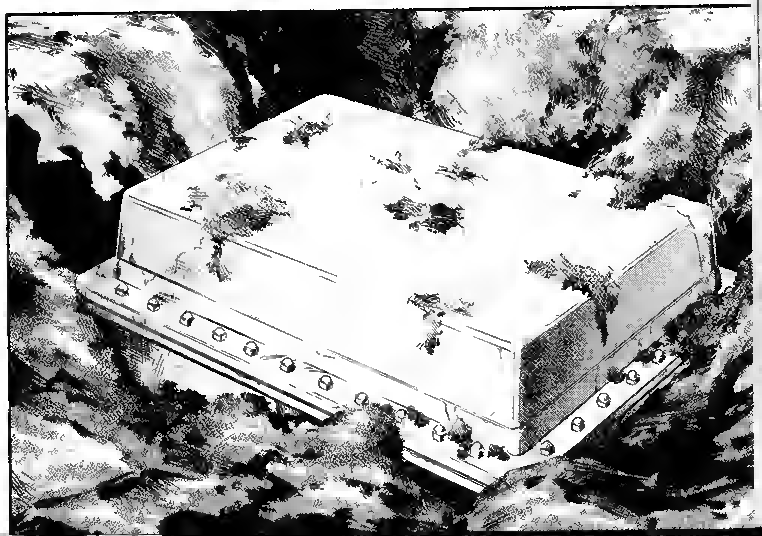

IS THIS...?
YUP. A TIME CAPSULE.

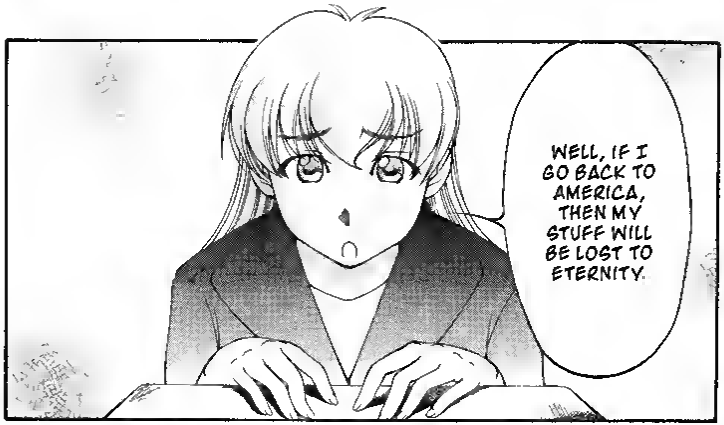

WE GONNA OPEN IT?
IT'S LOCKED UP PRETTY TIGHT BY THOSE BOLTS
WAIT HERE I'LL BE BACK




I'VE HAD ALL KINDS OF PART-TIME JOBS IN MY LIFE.
I'VE DUG MORE THAN A FEW HOLES IN MY TIME
I CAN SEE THAT...

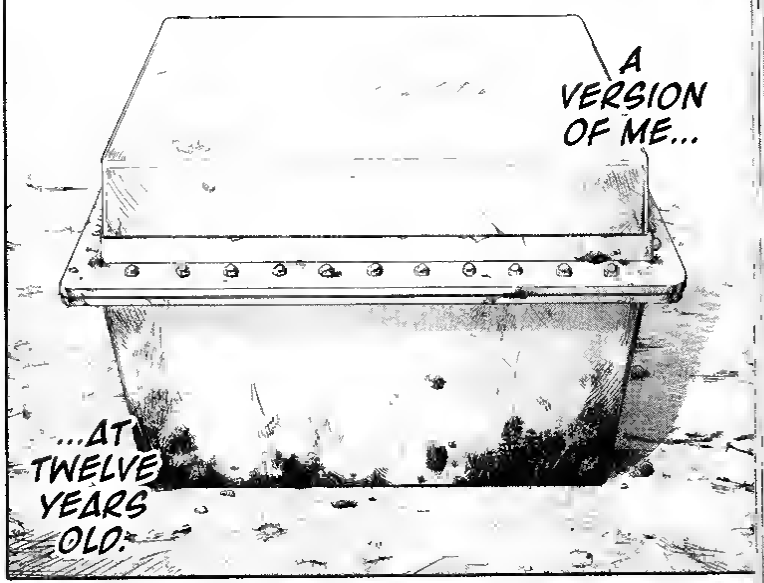

HEY! I HIT SOME-THING
REALLY ?!

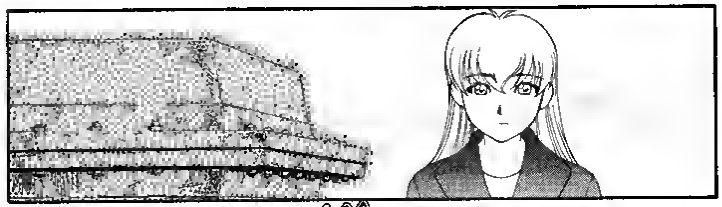


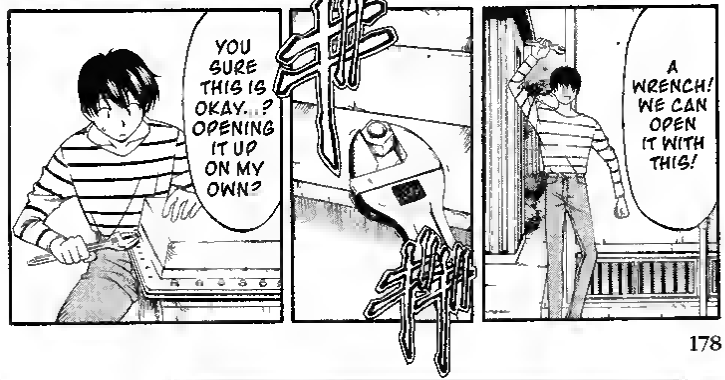

WELL, IF I GO BACK TO AMERICA, THEN MY STUFF WILL BE LOST TO ETERNITY.

YEAH, I GUESS...
IF WE PUT IT BACK THE WAY IT WAS, NO ONE WILL EVEN NOTICE, RIGHT?

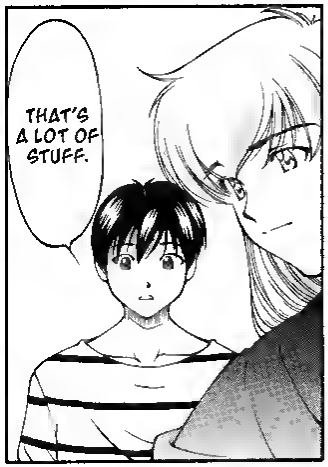
O-OKAY
I'M GONNA OPEN IT, TINA...
ALL RIGHT, ONE BOLT DOWN.


A VERSION OF ME...
...AT TWELVE YEARS OLD.

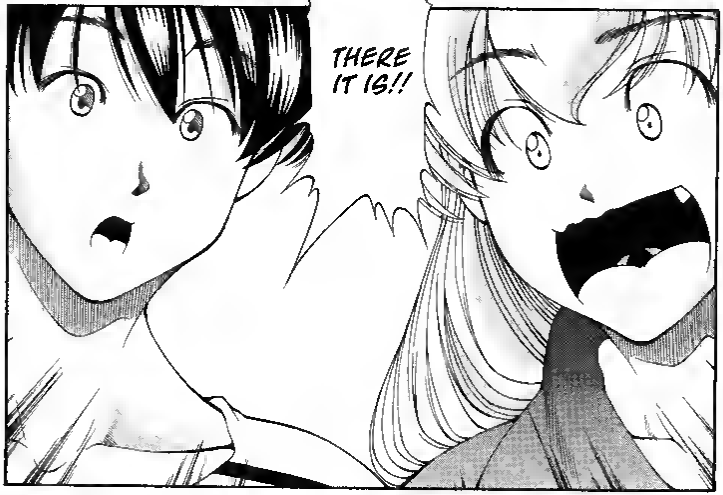


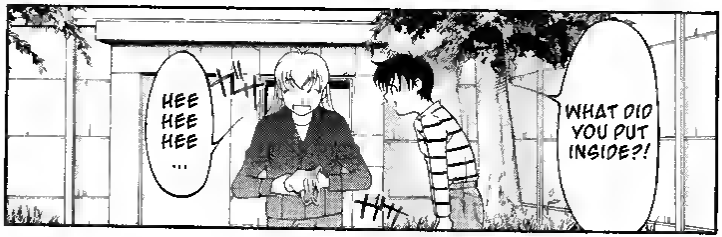

YOU SURE THIS IS OKAY...? OPENING IT UP ON MY OWN?
A WRENCH! WE CAN OPEN IT WITH THIS!

YEAH WE HAD A PRETTY BIG CLASS.


THAT'S A LOT OF STUFF.

Tina Foster

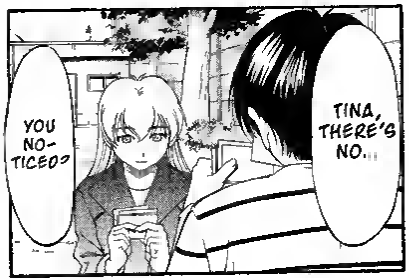

THERE IT IS!!


HEE HEE HEE ...
WHAT DID YOU PUT INSIDE?!

PICTURES ?!

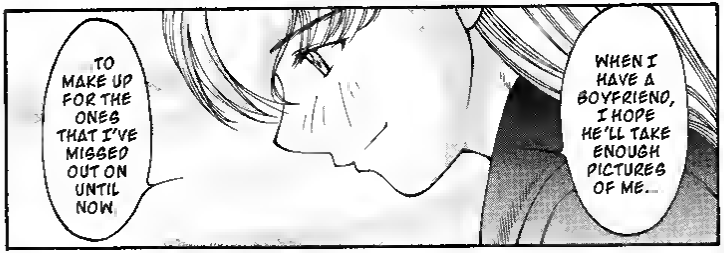
HUH?
...HM?!

I GUESS THAT'S ANOTHER THING THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE.
YUP.


YOU NO-TICED?
TINA, THERE'S NO...

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE WITH THE CAMERA, SO IT'S NOT THAT OFTEN I HAVE PICTURES TAKEN OF ME.
.....

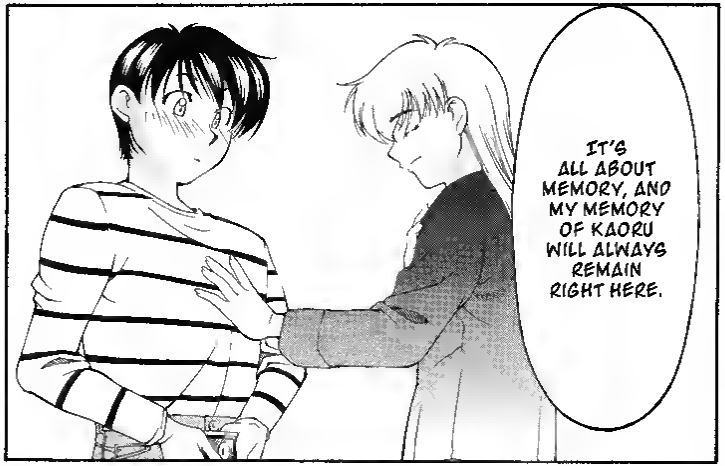
I TOOK ALL OF THOSE PHOTOS, SO I'M NOT IN ANY OF THEM.

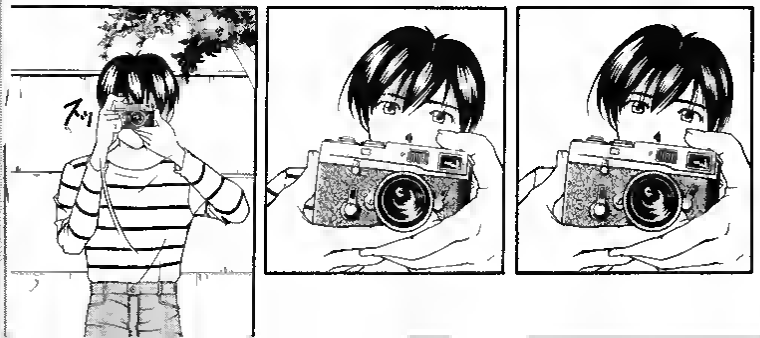

TO MAKE UP FOR THE ONES THAT I'VE MISSED OUT ON UNTIL NOW.
WHEN I HAVE A BOYFRIEND, I HOPE HE'LL TAKE ENOUGH PICTURES OF ME...

HERE !!

OKAY, KAORU, TAKE THIS.

IT'S OKAY THERE WON'T BE ANY ACTUAL PICTURES.
B-BUT, THIS LOOKS LIKE IT'S BROKEN..


IT'S ALL ABOUT MEMORY, AND MY MEMORY OF KAORU WILL ALWAYS REMAIN RIGHT HERE.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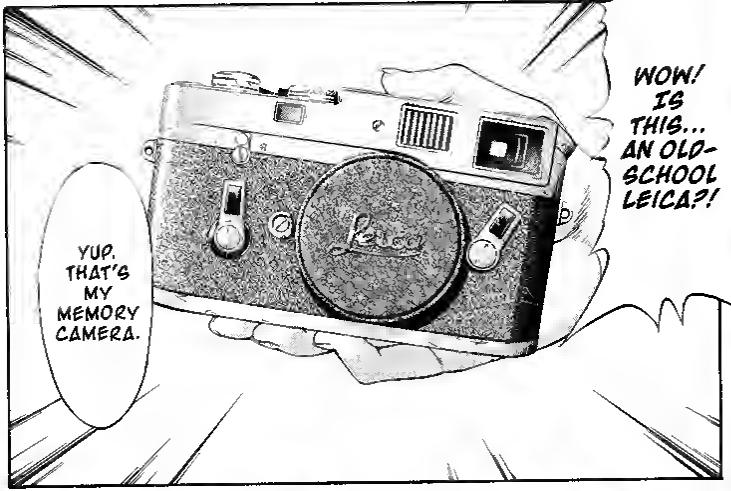
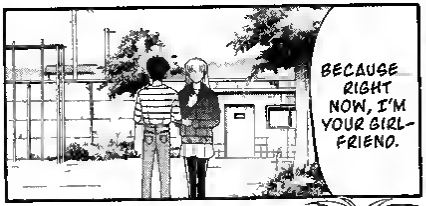
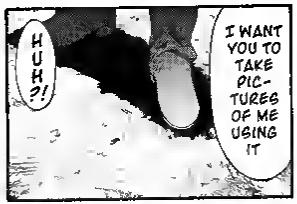
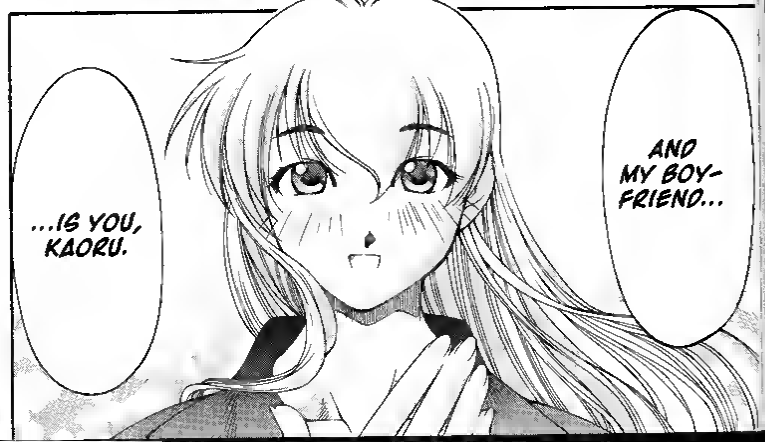

WOW! IS THIS... AN OLD-SCHOOL LEICA?!
YUP. THAT'S MY MEMORY CAMERA.

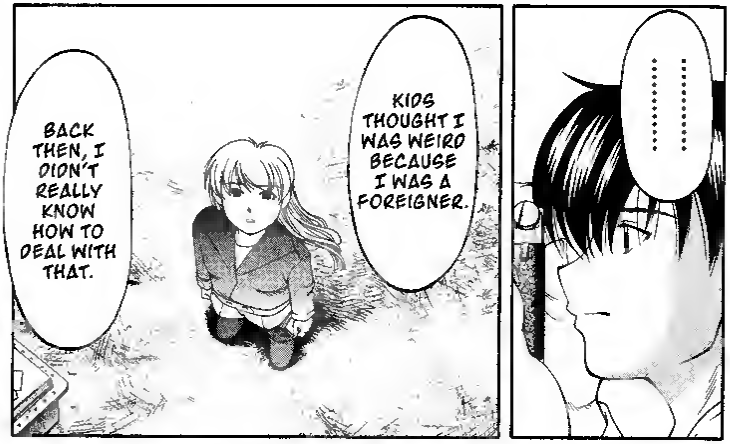

BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, I'M YOUR GIRL-FRIEND.

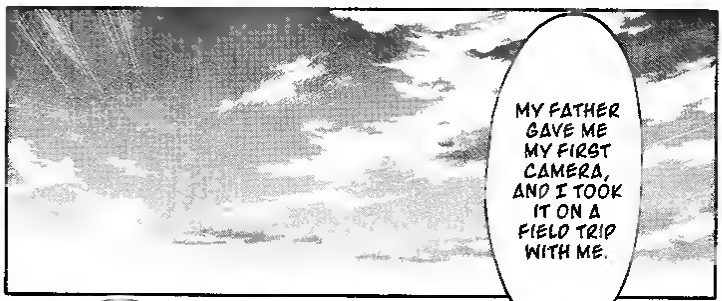

HUH?!
I WANT YOU TO TAKE PIC-TURES OF ME USING IT

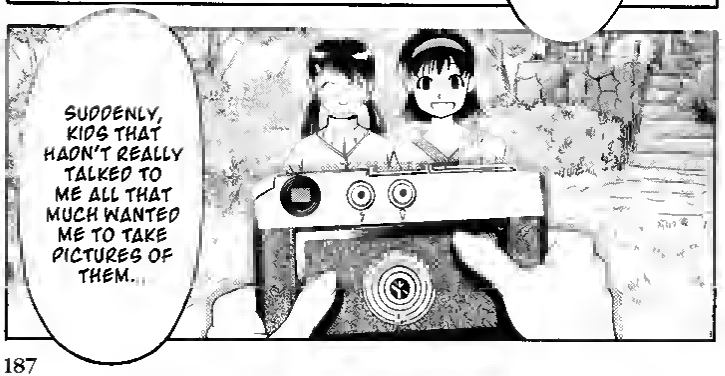

AND MY BOY-FRIEND...
...IS YOU, KAORU.

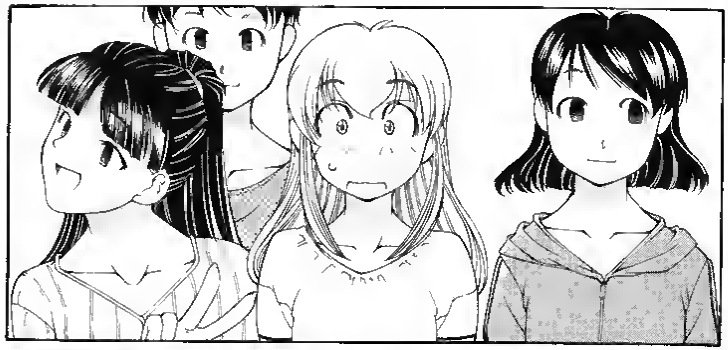
10ミニオ

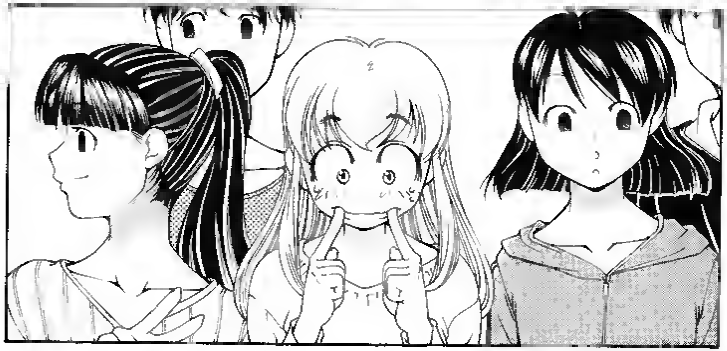
YOU KNOW ...
WHEN I WAS A STUDENT HERE, I DIDN'T MAKE VERY MANY FRIENDS.


BACK THEN, I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THAT.
KIDS THOUGHT I WAS WEIRD BECAUSE I WAS A FOREIGNER.
.....


MY FATHER GAVE ME MY FIRST CAMERA, AND I TOOK IT ON A FIELD TRIP WITH ME.


SUDDENLY, KIDS THAT HADN'T REALLY TALKED TO ME ALL THAT MUCH WANTED ME TO TAKE PICTURES OF THEM...





HERE GOES--

WHEN I TOOK THE PHOTOS, I FELT LIKE I FINALLY BELONGED, SO I KEPT TAKING THEM.

EVEN THE TOUGHEST KIDS CAME AROUND WHEN THEY SAW WHAT I WAS DOING. EVERYONE LIKES HAVING THEIR PICTURE TAKEN!

"WHY DON'T YOU GET IN THE PICTURE, TOO, TINA-SAN?"
ONE OF MY FRIENDS EVEN-TUALLY ASKED..

I LOVE TO SMILE.
I REALIZED THEN THAT IF I SMILED, MY FRIENDS WOULD SMILE, TOO. EVERYONE WOULD SMILE ALL THE TIME.

WHEN I LOOK AT THIS PHOTO, IT GIVES ME A WHOLE NEW PERSPECTIVE ON WHO I WAS BACK THEN.

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

End of Chapter 111: Takarabako—Treasure Box

NEXT TIME IN

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

Kaoru and Tina's date continues and Tina asks Kaoru to take some more pictures of her--and she tells him a story about how she ran away from a guy that she liked because she was afraid of him hating her.

Then the vacation comes to an end, and Tina finally tells everyone that she's definitely going back to America once she graduates. Aoi tries extra hard to be nice to her because she's leaving soon, but Tina doesn't like the special treatment. She then takes Aoi to her favorite place, where she finally asks Aoi how she feels about Kaoru, but is she really prepared to hear the answer?

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It's tough being Kaoru! When Tina invites everyone to Kyushu to visit the hot springs, he becomes a bit distressed that men and women are allowed to bathe together. After the wet and wild splash-fest, he returns alone to his room for the night...and Aoi pays him a visit. Later, Tina insists on getting some "alone time" with Kaoru. With all this pushing and pulling and splishing and splashing, will Kaoru finally begin to act like her boyfriend?

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